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Members of the Horizon Science Academy class of 2017 pose for a group photograph. The Lorain based public charter school graduated a group of 31 seniors on May 25, 2017.

Horizon Science Academy in Lorain graduates 31 seniors who earn 100 percent college acceptance

By Staff report

The Morning Journal

Members of the Horizon Science Academy class of 2017 toss their caps into the air as part of the graduation ceremony for 31 seniors of the Lorain based public charter school on May 25, 2017.

Horizon Science Academy has graduated its second class of high school seniors — who had a 100 percent college acceptance rate.

The group of 31 graduates earned more than \$5.3 million in scholarships upon graduating on May 25, said Jayson Bendik, Assistant Principal of the school. The group graduated in a ceremony with about 400 people attending in the renovated Horizon auditorium, he said.

“It was an unforgettable evening that will serve as the catalyst for future graduates at Horizon Science Academy of Lorain to try to live up to,” Bendik said.

Horizon Science Academy, 760 Tower Blvd., Lorain, started in 2009 with 90 students in grades kindergarten to five. Since then, Horizon has grown to what will be about 700 students in grades kindergarten to 12, Bendik said.

In the recent commencement, the keynote speaker was Frank Whitfield, president and chief executive officer of the Lorain County Urban League. Whitfield spoke about his personal struggles in life and how he overcame them, with in-

sight about how to attack life’s challenges.

“He stressed the importance of being engaged, informed, resilient, flexible and being humble,” Bendik said.

The students also heard from their peer valedictorian and salutatorian. Dr. Osman Arslan, the founding principal of Horizon who now teaches at a college in Iowa, also spoke.

Horizon Science Academy provides a college-prep curriculum with a focus on science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM. It is managed by Concept Schools, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization that manages 30 public charter schools with a STEM focus.

