



# SOUTH TAHOE HIGH SCHOOL

1735 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

• South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 •

(530) 541-4111 •

<http://sths.ltusd.org>

Pat Hamnett, Asst. Principal ☞

Chad Houck, Principal

☞ Justin Zunino, Asst. Principal

## Student 7

----- has tremendous resiliency and optimism, considering the life she has led thus far. -----'s mother was removed from the country when she was in elementary school. ----- and her sister Katie, who is six years younger, were left to be cared for by their father Rogelio who in order to make ends meet began to work two jobs. At a very early age, ----- became responsible for caring for herself and Katie. Although she hit a few bumps along the road, she took every opportunity extended to her to build a network of supportive adults: community and church mentors, teachers and extended family members. To -----, it felt as if her mother had died. She didn't hear from her for years and was left to wonder where she was. When her mother eventually resurfaced on Facebook, she had remarried and had another baby. ----- was, and continues to feel devastated as she watches her mother raises her youngest daughter while desperately craving to have her back in her life. Despite her emotional pain, ----- carries on, with a smile on her face and the determination to be successful. Approximately three years after -----'s mother removal, Rogelio her father became involved with another woman and eventually the families moved in together. ----- had gained a stepmother and sister, she was thrilled. The girls got along well and began to build a family and develop deep emotional bonds. Unfortunately for -----, tragedy would strike again only two years after. Her stepsister is Nayeli Peña, the driver in the accident that resulted in the death of Aimee Campos in 2014. Both Nayeli and Aimee are 2012 graduates of South Tahoe High School. ----- had a very difficult time at school as many of her peers took sides and directed snide remarks toward ----- while Nayeli laid paralyzed in the hospital. The ordeal culminated with Nayeli being convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter and sentenced to eight years in prison earlier this year. -----, although distraught by the circumstances that made her household almost unbearable, never lost focus of her goals. She kept attending school and earning mostly good grades keeping her end goal in mind: becoming a social worker so that she may help others. ----- also has a passion for making jewelry and as her senior project she has opened an online store, Amistad Threads: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/AmistadThreads> ----- hopes to use the proceeds to help finance her college education. -----'s kindness, optimism, strength and determination have lead me to build deep admiration of her character. She has tremendous potential and I have no doubt she will be successful at LTCC next fall.