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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School 2016 Graduation

**June 16, 2016, Ghent, NY** – On Saturday, June 11, Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School graduated its 34<sup>th</sup> class of seniors under a tent on its Ghent campus. The keynote speaker, Andreas Schneider (HVS '02), Hawthorne Valley's current Director of Farm Production Enterprises, who earned his MBA from George Washington University, in Washington, D.C., spoke about the fact that these seniors are coming of age in a time of unprecedented human consciousness about the ways in which we are interconnected – with each other, our environment, the earth, and the cosmos. Schneider encouraged the Class of 2016 to embrace that interconnectedness as they leave high school: “seek it out, explore it, nurture it, and honor it. Through those efforts, you will do remarkable things in the years to come.”

Graduation was preceded on Friday, June 10, with a Rose Ceremony, in which the first graders gave the seniors a rose in an all-school assembly. At the start of the year, the reverse happened at a special Flower Ceremony, where the seniors welcomed the first graders to the school. On Friday, it was the rising first graders' turn to wish the seniors well as they depart HVS, and begin the next phase of their journeys.

The HVS Class of 2016 includes: Aliou Abdusami (undecided – accepted to Hofstra University, Johnson & Wales University, Wells College, Warren Wilson College and Arizona State University), Blaise Vlaho Ballinger (joining family in Chatham pub/restaurant business), Cecilia Jane Bellows (attending Portland Community College), Jeremiah Quimby Cronin (deferred for a year from CUNY Queens), Jeffrey Carl DeCaro (pursuing career in art and music while attending plumbing trade school), Alexandra Sophia

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Eleazar (attending Smith College), Melissa Rose Frishkoff (deferred for a year from St. Michael's College), Xiao Haylin (attending Santa Barbara Community College), Naho Hirohata (attending CUNY Hunter), Fiona Allegra Kenyon (attending Goucher College), Carla Isabel Namuth (deferred from Goucher College for a year), Matthew T. Niederman (attending Case Western Reserve University), Liri Ronen (attending Bard College), Rachel Ashley Ruark (attending SUNY Plattsburg), Roseleen Zororo Tau (attending Buffalo State College), Mary Christina Wedd (taking a year off to travel, attending college in 2017), Liu Zheng (attending Ohio State University).

HVS seniors were accepted at the following universities: Arizona State University, Arcadia University, Baldwin Wallace University, Bard College, Buffalo State College, Case Western Reserve University, CUNY: Hunter, CUNY: Queens, Clark University, Drew University, Drexel University, Eckerd College, Elon University, Fordham University, Goucher College, The Hartt School of Music, Hofstra University, Johnson & Wales University, Loyola Marymount University, Manhattanville College, Oberlin Conservatory, Ohio State University, Pace University, Purchase College, Randolph College, Rollins College, Rutgers University, Saint Louis University, St. Michael's College, St. Olaf College, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Stonybrook, University of California: Santa Barbara, University of Connecticut, University of Hartford, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ursinus College, Warren Wilson College, Wells College, Wheaton College.

### **About Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School**

Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School is a pre-K through grade 12 school situated on a 700-acre Biodynamic farm in New York's Hudson Valley. Hawthorne Valley's integrative Waldorf curriculum is designed to create a healthy and balanced learning environment where children build living connections to the natural world while cultivating social responsibility, personal excellence, and the practical capacities to meet the challenges of the future. The school is part of Hawthorne Valley Association, a diverse nonprofit in central Columbia County, NY. Dedicated to social and cultural renewal through the integration of education, agriculture, and the arts, Hawthorne Valley Association's campus includes the Waldorf school; a working Biodynamic farm; on-farm education programs; a full-line organic/natural foods and grocery store; social, ecological, and cultural research groups; teacher training programs; and more. For additional information, please visit [www.hawthornevalley.org](http://www.hawthornevalley.org).