

Communication Services Department
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: May 18, 2005

Contact:

PATRICIA K. BUYS

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Director

Direct: 303-636-1278

E-mail: pbuys@co.arapahoe.co.us

or:

KATRINA SEYMOUR

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-961-3605

E-mail: kseymour@co.arapahoe.co.us

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! gives GED graduates the recognition they deserve

Students celebrate their success in special graduation ceremony

Aurora, Colo. Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is hosting a special ceremony tonight for more than 50 graduates receiving a GED certificate from the Colorado Department of Education. The GED is equivalent to a high school diploma, and is awarded on the successful completion of five tests, including interpreting literature and the arts, math, science, social studies and writing. The oldest student in tonight's graduating class is 46 and the youngest is 17.

"We're proud to celebrate and support those who make an investment in academic learning and secure a GED to improve their future prospects," said Patricia Buys, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Director. "At a time of year when other students are being formally recognized for graduation from high school or college, we want our GED graduates to feel just as proud of their success, and to know that this certificate is a respected, credible qualification in the workplace, as well as a stepping stone toward life long learning."

The students studied and tested for their GED at the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! learning facility at CentrePoint Plaza in Aurora after signing up for the course through the Aurora Public Schools system. Some interesting facts about the GED include*:

- More than 95 percent of U.S. employers consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates in regard to hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement;
- The GED is used by 90 percent of U.S. college admissions officers to evaluate a student's academic achievement;
- Comedian Bill Cosby, actor Christian Slater, Delaware's Governor Ruth Ann Minner, and U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado are all GED graduates;
- Students who obtain scores high enough to earn a GED credential outperform at least 40 percent of today's high school seniors; and
- One out of every seven high school diplomas issued each year in the United States is based on passing the GED Tests.

This evening's ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in the Forum Auditorium at Community College of Aurora, 16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy, in Aurora. Dr. Linda Bowman, President of the Community College of Aurora, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact Patricia Buys at 303-636-1278.