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For release: April, 7, 2010

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Arapahoe County honors teens during annual Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth award ceremony

Littleton, Colo. - Arapahoe County Commissioners and local elected officials recently honored 20 teenagers who have overcome personal adversity during the County's Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award recognition ceremony.

The Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards program, established in 1986, recognizes youth, ages 13-19, who have overcome difficult situations in their lives by exhibiting strength and determination in the face of adversity. The nine counties that participate in the program are Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Gilpin counties.

The program provides businesses, community and civic leaders the opportunity to actively demonstrate their belief in and support for the young adults in our communities who might not otherwise be recognized.

"It is an honor for us to recognize these remarkable young men and women," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan, who serves as Chair Pro Tem. "Our community is fortunate to have such an inspiring group of youth who have risen to the challenges life has presented and created positive changes for their future."

In addition to Noonan, Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig, Englewood Mayor Jim Woodward and Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon recognized this inspirational group of young adults for their positive influence on themselves and those around them.

The following students were recognized during the March 23 ceremony:

- Xavier Roubouin, Arapahoe Community College
- Bridget Luly, Arapahoe High School
- Emily Borden, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Meghan Branstetter, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Angelina Follette, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Angela Hernandez, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Geobana Leyva-Ramos, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Jasmine McCormick, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Amy Villanueva, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Jewell Higgs, Englewood High School

- Elyse Michaels, Englewood High School
- Vivian Cifuentes, Littleton High School
- Kaci Corrigan, Littleton High School
- Sefra Maez, Littleton High School
- Eric Rouleau, Littleton High School
- Emily Seale, Littleton High School
- David Castillo, Rangeview High School
- Bryan Lohrentz, Rangeview High School
- Mariam Moquim, Rangeview High School
- Hailey Novitch, Rangeview High School

MMCYA is a three-step recognition process with recipients first being honored at the city level. Individuals are then screened for recognition at the county level, and four are selected from each of the nine participating counties to be honored April 17 at the metro luncheon at the Donald R. Seawell Ballroom located in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts complex.

The Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards is coordinated by a metro steering committee comprised of nine front range counties.

For more information about the Arapahoe County ceremony, contact Carol Dosmann or Karen Richman in the Arapahoe County Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630.

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To download photos click on the link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/>

Photo caption:

Arapahoe County Commissioners Pat Noonan, Frank Weddig, Englewood Mayor Jim Woodward and Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon, honored 20 teenagers who have overcome personal adversity during the County's Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award recognition event March 23. Four Arapahoe County teens will be recognized at the April 17 metro luncheon.