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Six local students honored as the first to graduate from the A/D Youth in the Works! Hudson Gardens Project

Littleton, Colo. On Aug. 3, a graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the first six youth to complete the Hudson Gardens Project.

The Hudson Gardens Project is the first of its kind created by Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, School-to-Work Alliance Program and an employer – Hudson Gardens – to provide leadership, independent living and career exploration development to local youth enrolled in the Youth Transitions Grant.

This short term intensive program allowed students ages 18 – 21 from Denver, Sheridan and Littleton to receive comprehensive workforce preparation services where they learned and experienced first hand leadership, customer service and job readiness skills that will enable them to achieve their future life goals. In one particular class, students were taught basic tips on budgeting, and how to handle cash.

“Hudson Gardens Project is a great example of how we have begun to work with organizations and employers within our community to help build the skills of our youth and create an opportunity for them to develop essential job and life skills,” stated Kelly McDougal, Youth Program Supervisor for Arapahoe/Douglas Works! “We’re excited at the opportunity to strengthen this program by building community partnerships that utilize additional resources to enhance each opportunity and activity for youth to grow and advance.”

Each organization played a specific role in the project: Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! provided uniforms, paid student wages and provided training and lunch once per week. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation supplied a job coach for the students while Hudson Gardens provided the work site. The youth were selected by the School-to-Work Alliance Program which provided additional student and employer workshops.

For more information about the Hudson Gardens Project contact Tiffany Bazanac, Youth Workforce Specialist, at 303-636-1204.

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