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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 40 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 53 and the youngest is 16; one student overcame several adversities to pass her GED, including caring for an invalid father and a sick daughter—and even getting in a car accident.

“We're proud to celebrate and support these adults who made the commitment to go back to school and gain their 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 as proud of their success, and to know that this certificate is a respected, credible qualification in the workplace and in further education.”

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 High School 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 5:30 p.m. in the Fisher Auditorium at Englewood High School, in Englewood. For more information, contact Patricia Buys at 303-636-1278.