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Arapahoe County Commissioners and Mayors award seven scholarships to high school seniors

Teens recognized as positive role models, despite personal adversities

Littleton, Colo. — Arapahoe County Commissioners and local mayors and city council members recently honored 25 teenagers, ages 13-19, from 11 area middle and high schools who have overcome significant personal adversity during the 2016 Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award Program recognition ceremony at the Mayo Aviation Hangar in Centennial Airport.

The annual program, created and sponsored by Arapahoe County, honors and recognizes Arapahoe County youth who have risen to meet challenges while maintaining academic excellence and a positive attitude. Teens are nominated by their school counselors, teachers, mentors and parents.

The teens honored by Arapahoe County have overcome situations including living with economic hardship or a disability; overcoming physical or emotional challenges; providing financial or emotional support to family members; caring for a sick or elderly parent; losing or living without a parent or sibling; or having English spoken as a second language at home.

“These young people have met and overcome major obstacles in their personal lives and still kept their focus,” said Commissioner Nancy Jackson, a former professor who taught for many years at the Community College of Aurora and local community colleges. “Despite the adversities in their lives, they’ve worked hard academically, set positive goals, volunteered in their communities, and in some cases helped their families. Their perseverance and drive will help them succeed at any endeavor and they serve as a role model to us all.”

Commissioners Nancy Sharpe, Rod Bockenfeld and Nancy Jackson, along with Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon, Englewood Mayor Joe Jefferson, Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky and Littleton Mayor Bruce Beckman participated in the ceremony to recognize these inspirational teens.

Students recognized during the April 27 ceremony at Centennial Airport included:

- Dylan Van Denend, Arapahoe High School
- Symone Williams, Cherokee Trail High School
- Faleena Coleman-Barter, Tiffany Inman, Lillian Priszano, Heather Ryan, Dejvid Vujic, Chay Williams and Blythe Wurtz, Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
- Kaylee Coker-Mosley, Englewood High School
- Dustin Trevino, Englewood Leadership Academy
- Alexis Mahlum and Jonah Martinez, Englewood Middle School
- Nazario Caceres, Goddard Middle School
- Fabricia Pineda and Kirstin Smith-LeCavalier, Heritage High School
- Abiud Garcia, Fadi Nshimiyimana, Joselin Rivera and Ley-Lonni Woodruff, Hinkley High School
- Juansa Luster and Roxana Valencia, Rangeview High School
- In'Lana Henderson, Shayna Tillmon and Ivy Wingfield, St. Mary's Academy

The Commissioners also awarded seven scholarships to the following seniors:

- Kylee Coker-Mosley, Englewood High School
- Faleena Coleman-Barter and Heather Ryan, Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
- Fadi Nshimiyimana, Joselin Rivera and Ley-Lonni Woodruff, Hinkley High School
- Roxana Valencia, Rangeview High School

The scholarships were made possible by the Arapahoe County Foundation through donations by Arapahoe County, local cities and towns, the Centennial Airport Foundation, Mayo Aviation Inc., personal donations and the Colorado Community College System Financial Aid Council.

For more information or if you would like to donate to the Arapahoe Commissioners Mayors Youth Scholarship Awards program, please visit <http://bit.ly/ACFdonate>.

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Photo: Commissioners and Mayors celebrate the accomplishments of these inspiring teens during the 2016 Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award Program recognition ceremony at Centennial Airport. Download the photo: <http://bit.ly/MMCYA2016>

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