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## **Arapahoe County celebrates youth with annual ceremony**

*Teens honored for serving as positive role models in the community*

**Littleton, Colo.** - Arapahoe County Commissioners and local elected officials recently honored 42 teenagers who have overcome personal adversity during Arapahoe County's Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award recognition ceremony.

Commissioners Susan Beckman, Nancy Sharpe, Rod Bockenfeld, Nancy Jackson and Bill Holen were joined by City of Englewood Mayor Randy Penn and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Woodward, City of Cherry Hills Village Doug Tisdale, and Littleton City Council Member Jim Taylor to recognize and honor this inspirational group of young adults who have overcome difficult situations in their lives by exhibiting strength and determination in the face of adversity.

The program provides businesses, community and civic leaders the opportunity to nominate youth in the community who might not otherwise be recognized. Nomination forms are distributed to Arapahoe County junior high and high schools each year.

"These kids should be very proud of themselves," said Commissioner Nancy Jackson, who is a former college professor. "Each of them have a story to tell and are an inspiration to others. It is truly an honor to recognize these remarkable young men and women."

Each year, the Colorado Community College System Financial Aid Council awards one \$500 scholarship per County. This year, the Board of County Commissioners solicited donations to increase the number of scholarships, and were able to award seven \$500 scholarships to deserving Arapahoe County seniors.

The following students and scholarship recipients were recognized during the ceremony:

- Adrian Alvarado-Daigle, Sheridan High School
- Lizarlette Alvarez, Overland High School
- Nate Andrews, Englewood Middle School
- Marilyn Arroyo (scholarship recipient), Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Aye Mimi Aung, Hinkley High School
- Jakob Austin (scholarship recipient), Options High School
- Mariah Bacca, Englewood Middle School

- Samantha Benner, John F. Kennedy High School
- Robert Buckingham, Options High School
- Richard Chagolla, Rangeview High School
- Chiekiezie Chukwuka, Overland High School
- Bryant Clark, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Kaylee Coker-Moseley, Englewood Middle School
- Baily Coy, Newton Middle School
- Adrian DeLaTorre Zubia, Englewood Middle School
- Angela English, Englewood Middle School
- Tony Fierro, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Edgar Garcia, Overland High School
- Joshua Garza (scholarship recipient), Aurora Central High School
- Casey Giles, Rangeview High School
- Dystanie Guttierrez, Hinkley High School
- Tyler Hastings, Englewood Middle School
- Ryan Haynes, Newton Middle School
- Jody Herndon, Englewood Middle School
- Tiffany Inman, Englewood Middle School
- Devante Johnson (scholarship recipient), Eaglecrest High School
- Schenoa King, Newton Middle School
- Amber Loos, Englewood Middle School
- Ty Lucas, Englewood Middle School
- Kirstie Rae Martinez, Options High School
- Midori Martinez-Palmer, Englewood Middle School
- Liberty Nelson, Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Thomas Romero (scholarship recipient), Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Heather Ryan, Englewood Middle School
- Kelsey Schaffer, Englewood Middle School
- Jenny Sowers (scholarship recipient), Colorado's Finest Alternative High School
- Mukanya Tchombela, Overland High School
- Rachel Tilton, Goddard Middle School
- Sophia Vamvakias, Englewood Leadership Academy
- Page Vielbig, Englewood High School
- Youthboravy Yim (scholarship recipient), Hinkley High School
- Chase Zrnchik, Englewood Middle School

To learn about the Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Awards program, contact Carol Dosmann in the 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/MMCYA>

TGP5991 - Jakob Austin of Options High School was one of seven seniors who received a \$500 scholarship during Arapahoe County's Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award recognition ceremony.

TGP6116 - Dystanie Guttierrez, Hinkley High School was one of 42 youth recognized at Arapahoe County's Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award recognition ceremony.