



## News Release

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### **Disabled youth get a leg up on the competition**

*Arapahoe/Douglas Works! provides work training for disabled youth*

AURORA, CO --- A local program gives youth with disabilities a leg up when entering the job market. The Denver Health and Hospitals Project was created by Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! in partnership with the School-to-Work Alliance Program, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and an employer – Denver Health and Hospitals – to provide leadership, independent living and career exploration development to disabled youth funded through the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program.

In early February, nine youth celebrated their completion of the program, which earned them \$50 in addition to the knowledge necessary to be successful in the job market. For some participants, their graduation coincided with employment offers at Denver Health and Hospitals.

“This was a great experience,” said Adrienne Bartley of Montbello High School. “I had fun and learned a lot about how a hospital is ran. I especially loved working with the children.”

The three month program allowed students ages 16 – 21 from the Denver metro area to receive comprehensive workforce preparation services where they learned 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.

“By teaming up with community organizations and employers, we’re able to help youth develop essential job and life skills,” said Kelly Folks, Program Manager for A/D Works!

For more information about youth employment and job training, call 303-636-1260 or visit [www.adworks.org](http://www.adworks.org) for more information.

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