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## **Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award Program grants nine scholarships to high school seniors** *Teens recognized for serving as positive role models in their communities*

**Littleton, Colo.** — Arapahoe County Commissioners, local mayors and a city council member honored 24 teenagers from area high schools who have overcome significant personal adversity during the Arapahoe County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award Program recognition ceremony.

The Commissioners also awarded nine \$1,000 college scholarships.

Arapahoe County Commissioners Nancy Sharpe, Rod Bockenfeld, Nancy Jackson, Nancy Doty and Bill Holen were joined at the event by City of Englewood Mayor Randy Penn and Mayor Pro Tem Linda Olson, City of Greenwood Village Mayor Ron Rakowsky and City of Greenwood Village Councilwoman Denise Rose.

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

The Colorado Community College System Financial Aid Council awarded one \$500 scholarship which was matched by the Arapahoe County Foundation. Seven scholarships were made possible by funds from the Arapahoe County entities and personal donations. Two were made possible through funds from the Centennial Airport Foundation.

Scholarships were awarded to eight graduating seniors and one GED recipient:

Abel Cheng	Heritage High School
Dee Holguin	Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
Karla Munoz	Hinkley High School
Robert Noriega	WIA Youth Team – Arapahoe/Douglas Works!
Stephanie Perez	Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
Luis Ramos	Regis Jesuit High School – Boys Div.
Sinahy Ruiz	Colorado's Finest High School of Choice
Kennedy Watson	Englewood High School
Westin Webber	Hinkley High School

“These young people have shown determination and good judgment by keeping their education a priority in the face of major obstacles in their personal lives,” said Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, who serves as Board Chair. “They’ve worked hard academically, set positive goals and volunteered in their communities. They are on a path to use their perseverance and drive to become the leaders we need in our world.”

The teens 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.

“We know deep in our souls that the only path out of poverty is higher education,” said scholarship winner Westin Webber, Hinkley High School.

“If my future holds any certainty, it is my determination to be a leader and source of unity in our world,” said Audrey Roncevich, a nominee from Cherry Creek High School.

This year’s event was held April 15 at the Mayo Aviation Center hangar at Centennial Airport. Students had the opportunity to climb into and explore the cabins and cockpit of a fleet aircraft.

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**To download photos of the event and award recipients, please click the link:**

[ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Mayors%20and%20Commissioners%20Youth%20Awards\\_2015/MayorsCommissionersandStudents2015.jpg](ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Mayors%20and%20Commissioners%20Youth%20Awards_2015/MayorsCommissionersandStudents2015.jpg)

Caption:

Mayors, a City Council member and Arapahoe County Commissioners join the students nominated for the annual Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award at a ceremony at the Mayo Aviation Center hangar at Centennial Airport.