

PDE Newsroom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Education
Commonwealth News Bureau
Room 308, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CONTACT: Michael Race (PDE)
(717) 783-9802

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION HONORS OUTSTANDING ADULT STUDENTS

HARRISBURG – Pennsylvania’s outstanding adult students were honored today for their achievements and the obstacles they have overcome in their pursuit of excellence in education.

“Adult learners deserve praise for their successes as they face greater barriers and challenges,” said Education Secretary Gerald L. Zahorchak during a ceremony today. “These students should be commended for their relentless pursuit of education since today’s competitive and demanding workforce puts a greater emphasis on continued education.”

The recipients of the 2008 Outstanding Adult Student Awards were chosen by a panel of judges who reviewed their achievements in adult education. The students were evaluated on their achievements and their ability to overcome obstacles.

“When I dropped out of school at 16 and found work in a factory, my parents, Spanish-speaking and having just a few years of formal education, did not object,” said award recipient Celinette Olmo from Philadelphia. “At the time it seemed like a fine idea, but I eventually realized that staying at home is not the best thing for my family and me.”

The Department of Education’s Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education offers a wide range of instructional services that address the basic educational needs of adults and families. The programs boost the literacy skills of educationally disadvantaged adults, which can lead to better employment opportunities.

For more information about Pennsylvania’s outstanding adult students and the Bureau of Adult Basic and Secondary Education, visit www.pde.state.pa.us.

###

EDITOR’S NOTE: Below is the 2008 Outstanding Adult Student award recipient list:

- Allegheny County
 - o Jocelyne Nouné Alleyne, Allegheny Intermediate Unit
 - o Tyonia Ensley, Bidwell Training Center
- Berks County
 - o Jennifer Velez, Reading Area Community College
- Crawford County
 - o Buffey McIntyre, Crawford County READ
- Luzerne County
 - o Tauheedah Catty, Luzerne County Community College

- Mifflin County
 - o Donna Imes, TIU 11 Community Education Services
- Northhampton County
 - o Jennifer Pospisil, ProJeCt of Easton
- Philadelphia County
 - o Celinette Olmo, Community Learning Center
 - o Theresa Venhaus, Lutheran Settlement House
- Washington County
 - o Gladys Mazak, Community Action Southwest

The recipient of the Larry Goodwin Award for high score on the GED tests is:

- Clearfield County
 - o Sean Kelley, Central Intermediate Unit 10

Content Last Modified on 5/7/2008 11:00:15 AM