

Celebration of Educational Excellence



Celebrating the educational accomplishments
of Colorado youth in foster care.

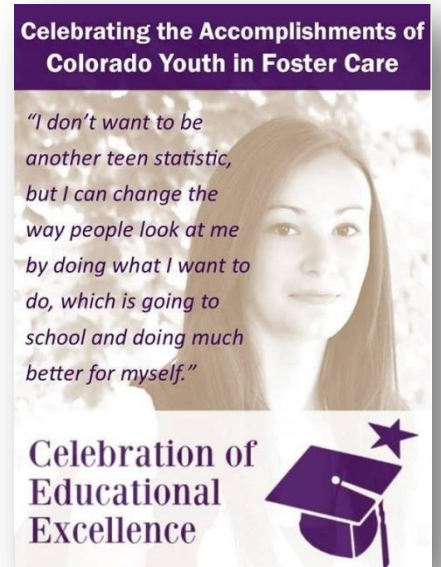
BACKGROUND

Each year the Celebration of Educational Excellence recognizes the academic achievements of Colorado's youth in foster care and foster care alumni who have completed a high school diploma, general equivalency diploma, career and technical certification or a college degree. **This year's celebration will take place on June 8, 2016.**

Despite barriers and adversity youth in foster care prove that they can succeed and complete their educational goals. Some are the first generation in their family to graduate and they carry the spark of higher learning with them to encourage other youth and family to find their own pathways to success. Historically, approximately 250 families, foster families, friends, advocates and community and youth honorees attend. Around one hundred graduates attend.

The event has grown to become a collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Human Services and a growing number of county departments, community organizations, businesses and individuals. It is an important opportunity for families and members of the community to connect with youth by celebrating their positive accomplishments and recognizing their success.

The goal of the 2016 planning committee, with the help of the community and the Colorado Department of Human Services, is to provide each graduate with a laptop to encourage lifelong learning through continuing education. Many opportunities are available to those interested in participating and supporting the educational success Colorado's foster care youth and alumni.



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS EDUCATION AND RESOURCE FAIR



In addition to a ceremony honoring the achievements of the youth, the event begins with an education and community resource fair, helping youth connect with educational partners, community resources and information to support their pursuit of lifelong learning.

The education and resource fair is held prior to the Celebration of Educational Excellence. Colleges, universities, career and technical schools, foundations, employers and resource organizations are encouraged to participate and to provide scholarship opportunities when possible.

PARTICIPATE: Contact Derek Blake at Derek.Blake@state.co.us or (303) 866-5995 to volunteer or discuss exhibiting at the Pathways to Success Education and Resource Fair.