



Triumph e-news

Community Educational Outreach
Fostering independence through education

CEO Triumph e-news www.ceocolorado.org

Spring, 2011

GED SKILLS



LIFE

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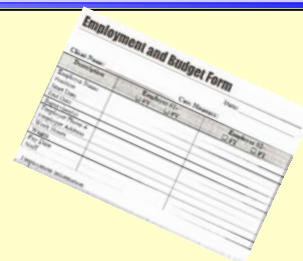
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New education initiatives pay dividends for CEO students

By Dory Dannettell & Jillian Shinn
CEO Staff Members



STUDY TIME

A recent review of CEO from the Colorado Department of Education brought to light our need for additional study hours for our students.

Based on our limited space, we decided to offer additional homework opportunities for students working to obtain their GED and students strictly seeking to improve their skills in math or language. Students are required to complete weekly study hours based on their program goals.

After CEO instructors worked diligently to prepare for the additional homework requirement, Intervention Community Correction Services (ICCS) supported our efforts by designating study hours in the resident's community rooms located throughout the facility. This provides our students with quality time in a quiet area conducive to studying.

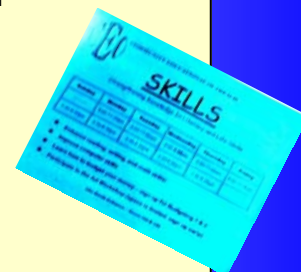
tests passed has steadily increased, and resulted in 100% of the tests taken in March 2011 being passed.

Another recent development came about from a mandate from the Department of Criminal Justice, which required a significant change in the job search procedures. CEO was able to support ICCS's needs by increasing our morning classroom hours to accommodate the additional documentation needed. As a result, students are able to perform a more effective job search.

Overall, the increased study and class time are showing a positive impact on student achievement.

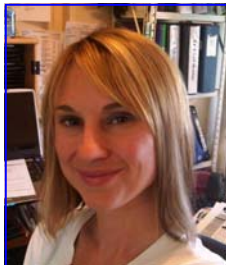
Moreover, these two major program changes have highlighted the reciprocal relationship between ICCS and CEO for the benefit of the students.

The initial outcome of additional study time appears to be having a positive influence. Since we implemented the extra homework hours, the number of official GED



Together we can make a difference!

Jessica Beckman, Executive Director



Community Educational Outreach (CEO) is devoted to providing educational resources that target low-income adults who may be at risk of institutionalization. CEO outreaches to local community correction, drug rehabilitation, and community based facilities in an effort to help clients remain productive members of society. Through student-centered individual and small-group instruction we assist students in pursuing the following goals:

- Improving adult basic education skills (grade levels 0-8.9)
- Enhancing secondary education skills (grade levels 9-12.9)
- Preparing for and completing the official GED test to obtain high school equivalency
- Obtaining employment or improving job prospects
- Improving computer and life skills

CEO started as an in-house education program at Alpha Center, a transitional facility between prison and the community. With the successes at Alpha, CEO was able to establish in-house education programs at other facilities. Since its inception in 1991, CEO has provided comprehensive instruction—including academic, life and job skills classes—to more than 7500 addicts, offenders, and community members and nearly 200,000 total hours of instruction at facilities such as: Alpha Center, Cenikor, Tooley Hall Women's Facility, Williams Street Center, Intervention Community Corrections Services, Independence House, Community Responsibility Center, Northeast Women's Center, First District Probation, the Parker Library, and Jefferson High School.

In mid-2010, CEO joined forces with First Judicial District Probation Department by taking over the management of their in-house GED program referred to as the Resource Educational Community Center or REC Center located in the Remington building. In late 2010, GED preparation classes at Jefferson High School returned after Jefferson secured a grant award from 21st Century to support after school activities. CEO is now able to offer pre-GED (Mon/Wed) and GED (Tue/Thu) classes in the evenings. However, we must raise matched funds to keep classes going. Please help us raise \$6000 to continue classes at Jefferson in the upcoming fiscal year! To make a donation, please select our donate tab and click on Paypal's "Donate" button at the top of the page: <http://ceocolorado.org/donate.html>. In early 2011, CEO increased access to GED preparation services by further collaborating with the Douglas County Libraries

and offering GED preparation classes at the Castle Rock Library location. Additionally, CEO began collaborating with the Department of Corrections' Division of Adult Parole in Denver to provide on-site GED classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

CEO is witnessing a growing need for GED preparation services but we are finding it difficult to meet this growing need. With your help, we can continue to expand our services and reach more people in need.

Please consider making a donation, becoming a monthly supporter, or providing GED test-fee scholarships. To make a donation, please go to the Donate page on CEO's website and select the appropriate Paypal button: <http://ceocolorado.org/donate.html>.

To learn more about our students and programs, please visit us on-line at www.ceocolorado.org and view our DVD on our news page: <http://ceocolorado.org/news.html>.



Karen Bowen
Program Director—
RECC



First Judicial District Probation Dept—GED

Please consider contributing a tax deductible donation today to help make CEO programs a success! CEO is always seeking volunteers to work with ABE and GED students. If you would like to contribute time or money, please contact:

Jessica at: 303-921-8600 or email CEO at jbeckman@ceocolorado.org.

MEET THE BOARD

Brendan Matthias: I decided to volunteer with Community Educational Outreach to assist in the mission of providing educational services to those individuals that are most at risk of being institutionalized or incarcerated.



Without providing these individuals with the tools and knowledge necessary to become gainfully employed, they are more likely to return to the system. It is my responsibility as a member of this community to assist these individuals in becoming educated and provide opportunities for a better life.

Seth Ford: I decided to volunteer for Community Educational Outreach because I believe in its mission. CEO is devoted to providing educational resources for people incarcerated or at-risk of being institutionalized.

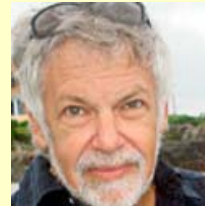


A largely punitive corrections system in Colorado has proven itself a failure by its recidivism rate. The impacts to public safety are felt, not just in the families of the formerly incarcerated and drug addicted, but by the entire community. As a community we pay for the revolving door in our prison system and *it is up to us* to install the door stopper.

Community Educational Outreach *is* that door stopper and it is my privilege to help install it.

“Why I volunteer at CEO”

Dr. Gilbert Gardner: I started teaching in prison in 1977...as an alternative to teaching one of my classes at the U. of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



The critical need and extremely positive impact on prisoners that I witnessed encouraged me to continue teaching in prisons; assist reintegration programs that focus on education; start prison college programs in numerous jails, prisons and therapeutic communities in Colorado and do research on the history of prisons and the impact of education on prisoners over the past 35 years.

Chuck Ford: I am the beneficiary of Second Chances and wanted to find a way to pass it on. My mother, during her short life, ingrained in me the doctrine that education was the only thing that would make a difference in my life.



It worked. It works. We should make every effort to see that anyone who "gets it" gets it.



Cristie Michelle



Dennis Cyr



Joseph Mathews



Martina Soustos



Antony Nolan

CEO video production highlights student success stories

The new Community Educational Outreach video narrative tells a powerful story of three former students who all achieved their GED through our programs.

Follow the inspiring journeys of Laura, Chris and Denise on their path to success!

The 7-minute production presents many revealing statistics relating to the high fiscal and human costs when education is not available to offenders-in-transition.

You can view the inspiring story on the CEO News page at: <http://ceocolorado.org/news.html> and then please consider making a donation to support a GED student by visiting our Donation page <http://ceocolorado.org/donate.html>

You can choose to either sponsor a single GED student or donate to support the many GED programs throughout our communities.



CEO 2011 Students-of-the- Month announced

CEO Instructors are proud to announce the CEO students selected as 2011 "Student of the Month" for the first 4 months of the year. Students are selected on the basis of working diligently on their program studies.

	CRCF	ICCS MALE	ICCS FEMALE
January	Vaughn Justice	Rodney Morgan	Cindy Kilcollins
February	Thomas Van Orden	Rodney Ryan	Laura Radic
March	Kelly Flier	Edgar Rocha	Katricia Martinez
April	Joe Fecht	Josh Monaghan	Lynne Seyler

Meet new CEO instructors: Andrea Lemieux & Brock Maher

NEW STAFFERS

Triumph: Please share with us a little bit about your backgrounds.

Andrea: I'm originally from New Hampshire, but I've lived in a lot of different places. I'm enjoying Colorado the most because the seasons are similar to what I experienced growing up.



Before I moved to Colorado this past December, I lived in Los Angeles where I was a librarian with the Los Angeles County Library. I've also served in the Air Force and have some nonprofit experience. My Bachelor's degree is in English Literature, and I also have a Master's in Information and Library Science.

When I'm not working or reading books, I like to go cycling, camping, take off on weekend road trips around the state and hang out with my husband and two black Labs.

Brock: I grew up on the east coast – Upstate New York specifically. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from SUNY Oneonta in 1996. After graduation I toured the US national parks with some friends in the summer. Upon driving through Colorado, I fell in love with it and moved here permanently.

I settled down, met my wife and, bought a house here in Lakewood. I now enjoy backpacking, camping, snowboarding, and raising my 4 year old daughter.

Triumph: What is your previous work experience and how did you locate CEO?

Andrea: As a librarian with the County Library I worked on the library's website and other technology related projects, but I wasn't working with the public much. After I moved to Colorado and started job searching, I wanted to somehow stay involved with technology as well as begin to get to know the community.

I thought I might be able to find a volunteer opportunity where I would be able to do both. By Googling around the Internet I learned about CEO and the type of work they do, and I eventually started teaching the Thursday night computer and Internet work-

Brock: After working in the construction field for several years, I wanted to get back into education. I specifically targeted CEO and other similar organizations so that I could obtain a job that had true meaning – one that would give me the opportunity to possibly make a difference.



Triumph: What are your responsibilities at CEO?

Andrea: I started my new position as an evening instructor on October 31. I'll be working alongside the other evening instructor to ensure that the clients who visit the CEO classroom and computer lab in the evening continue to meet their GED, SKILLS and HIRE goals. I'll also continue to teach the Thursday night computer workshops.

Brock: I am a life-skills instructor. I perform orientations for new clients, intake testing, and I run workshops targeted to the specific needs of the clients. I applied for this position after realizing the level of need that there was. Although I did not volunteer here first like many instructors, I felt like I could truly make a positive impact on many people's lives.

Triumph: What advice would you give to other potential CEO volunteers.

Andrea: Find a volunteer position that is not only rewarding but that also challenges you in new ways. I think volunteering is important to give back to your community, but it should also be an experience that broadens a volunteer's own experiences. I've found for myself that those qualities make for the best experience.

Brock: I would recommend this volunteering opportunity to those who want to put their efforts into a role where it would be truly appreciated. The clients at CEO are very diverse and the mix of people who come through the CEO program make for incredibly interesting interactions. There is no single type of person who comes through the CEO program, but they all need the same thing – someone who cares enough to take the time to help them out.

Meet Christopher Medina—

By Brock Maher—CEO Instructor



It has been said that the desire to succeed has to come from within, and in the case of Christopher Medina this is clearly true. Christopher's family is originally from the San Luis Valley. He grew up in a large family with 8 brothers & sisters.

Chris is currently 30 years old, but his journey started back when he was 16. He was expelled from many schools in Colorado, and he never had the opportunity to get his High School Diploma or GED.

Christopher decided to turn his life around and earn his GED.

Through his own motivation, he was able to take, and pass two of the five GED tests. Later, as he moved from one facility to another, he was unable to complete his goal because the resources simply

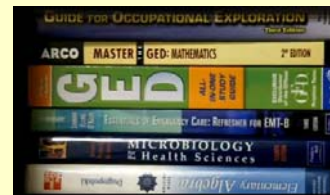
were not available to him. He was scheduled to be released to a transition housing facility. Of his limited choices, he was eager to come to ICCS because of the potential to complete his GED through the programs provided by at Community Educational Outreach (CEO).

When Christopher came to CEO on March 23, I conducted his orientation and his intake testing. He immediately expressed his desire to complete his remaining three tests, and earn his GED. Normally we have a student wait at least a month so they have time to study and practice for their test. Christopher was different. His intake testing showed a high level of skills across the board, but more importantly, his enthusiasm and drive made him stand apart. Once a month, the official GED testing takes place at our facility here in Lakewood. That date was a mere three days after arriving



Christopher Medina

at ICCS. On Saturday, March 26, Christopher took and passed the final three tests of his GED!



To be fair, not all of Christopher's motivation came from within. His younger sister recently graduated from high school. It was not easy, but her success helped to push her big brother to achieve his goals as well. As Christopher said, "If she was able to complete something like that, then I thought I could do it also."

His little sister would look up to him and say, "Brother, you can do this! You are way smarter than I am! And you know what? She was right. Now I can look back at her and say 'I did it!' Thank you little sis!" This makes Christopher the third member of his family to earn their diploma or GED, and he is quite proud of it.

Christopher's goals for the future are clear and specific. He wants to keep his momentum going and apply to Red Rocks Community College. He has gone so far as to apply for a scholarship to RRCC, and he is hopeful that opportunity will become a reality. He isn't putting all his eggs in one basket though. His backup plan involves attending the Colorado School of Massage Therapy.

According to Christopher, those courses would provide him with a chance to support himself in a field that he would enjoy, and allow him to better himself and become a productive member of society.

Congratulations Christopher, we are all proud of you!

Stop the Presses!
As we head to cyber press—we have just learned that Christopher has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Red Rocks Community College!

Introducing Amanda Jesse Williams

By **Andrea Lemieux—CEO Instructor**



Andrea: How did you first learn about CEO and why did you start volunteering?

Amanda: I first learned of CEO when I came across their website while searching for volunteer opportunities in the area. I was immediately drawn to CEO because of my background in education and the variety of ways that one could become involved in supporting the organization.

Andrea: Please share with us a little bit about yourself.

Amanda: I'm originally from Pueblo, Colorado, but have lived in the Denver area for many years now. In 2009, I graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a B.A. in history and elementary education. I'm currently using my degree to work with young children at a child care center and am preparing to begin work on an M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education through the University of Northern Colorado. When I'm not busy with work or school, I enjoy hunting for one-of-a-kind finds at local thrift stores and cooking with my husband.

Andrea: What do you like most about tutoring and grant writing?

Amanda: Tutoring is so fulfilling because it gives me a chance to interact with students and be a part of their academic and personal growth. Grant writing on the other hand enables me to give back to CEO in a meaningful way a few minutes at a time and without having a structured time commitment. It's really the perfect volunteer opportunity for people with difficult schedules.

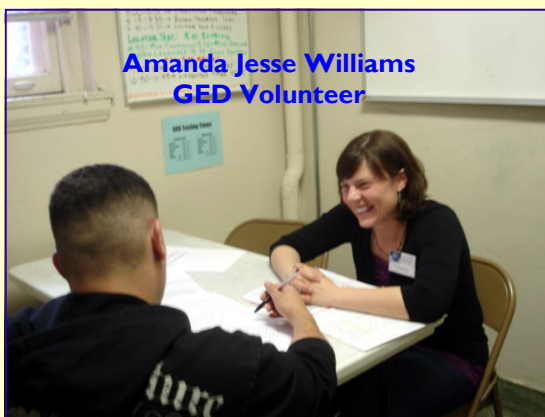
Andrea: What keeps you coming back week after week?

Amanda: It gives me the most wonderful feeling to see a student take pride in his or herself because of something they've accomplished during our session together. It also gives me a sense of

pride to know that I've played a part in helping someone further build their self-confidence through success in education. Plus, the ample appreciation shown to volunteers by the awesome CEO staff members makes me believe that my work is valued.

Andrea: What advice would you give to a new CEO volunteer?

Amanda: The material on the GED is very challenging and there may be times when you find yourself stumped while helping a student. That's okay! On frequent occasions, I've found myself



demonstrating to a student how to problem solve through material by using the available resources because I wasn't certain of an answer. In a way, I think this can be valuable too because it teaches students good study skills that they can use when working independently.

Andrea: Can you share a favorite CEO story with us?

Amanda: Some of my favorite experiences at CEO have been when a student walks away from a tutoring session feeling more confident about the material and excited to continue mastering it on their own throughout the week. Helping to instill motivation is important since real progress doesn't happen overnight; it requires a lot of time and energy on the part of the student.

Andrea: Please share any additional comments you may have.

Amanda: Volunteering for CEO is an incredibly rewarding experience that I would recommend it to anyone who feels passionately about promoting education and working with people.



www.ceocolorado.org

**Lakewood/Jefferson County
Intervention Community
Correction Services (ICCS)***

1651 Kendall Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

*ICCS clients only

Jefferson High School

2305 Pecos Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

GED Class Times:
6-8pm Mon & Wed, Tue & Thu
New Student Orientation:
Tue, 6pm sharp, Room S5

**Resource Educational
Community Center (RECC)***

Karen Bowen 720-497-7758
11011 W. 6th Ave., 2nd Floor
Lakewood, CO 80215

Orientation: Monday 3:30pm
Call to schedule: 720-497-7758

**Parker/Douglas County
Parker Library**

10851 S. Crossroads Dr.
Parker, CO 80134

GED Class Times:
Mon & Wed, 6pm-8:30pm
New Student Orientation:
Mon, 6pm sharp

**Greeley/Weld County
Intervention Community
Correction Services (ICCS)***

1101 H Street
Greeley, CO 80631

*ICCS clients only

General Contact Information

Phone: 303-921-8600

E-mail: info@ceocolorado.org

Denver

Division of Adult Parole
940 Broadway

Denver, CO 80203

GED Class Times: Mon/Wed/Fri
9am until 12 noon

For parole or community
corrections clients

Call to enroll: 303-921-8600

News from CEO Greeley—Partnering for GED success!

By Sara Garvey

CEO and ICCS-Greeley have partnered with Aims Community College to provide on-site GED testing. Aims sends a GED test proctor to the facility on the last Saturday of every month to test CEO students. This development has increased GED success tenfold mainly because students do not have to miss several days of work to take the test at the Aims Campus during scheduled times.



Aims has been coming to ICCS for five consecutive months now. CEO students have taken 116 GED test sections and 16 people have earned their GED! This partnership will only continue to help



CEO student artwork!

The walls and halls of CEO in Lakewood are adorned with many fine creations from CEO students—who enjoy Sunday evening Arts and Crafts class—which is heavily and voluntarily attended by residents.



June 18th—GED Grad Ceremony

By Karen Bowen

The Resource Education Community Center, one of CEO's newer programs, will be holding a GED Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at Red Rocks Community College.



Each year about 60 students complete the GED through the Resource Education Community Center, which partners with the First Judicial District to provide free GED preparation to probationers and community members. We expect to have thirty graduates walk in the ceremony, complete with caps and gowns.



Ten graduates have been selected to receive a very special honor – Red Rocks Community College is providing ten \$1,000 scholarships. Graduates competed by providing GED test scores and progress information and submitted an essay to the RECC Education Committee.

The Education Committee, which includes several CEO staffers, is working hard to provide a memorable night worthy of the graduates' achievements. Our honored guest speaker is Polly Baca-Barragán, former member of Colorado's House of Representatives and the Colorado Senate. Ms. Baca-Barragán has served as Co-Chair of the Democratic National Convention, and as Chief Executive of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA). Also on hand will be Dr. Betty Carson, our GED Graduation Organizer Emeritus.

It is hoped that the GED Graduation Ceremony is on its way to becoming a tradition for Community Educational Outreach, and we look forward to a wonderful event that will recognize the hard work, perseverance and dedication shown by our GED graduates.