

## South County Community Action Awards Thirty-Two Students Their GED



Proud students and their families gathered at the South Kingstown Safety Complex in Wakefield to celebrate attainment of the students' GED high school equivalency diplomas after months, and sometimes a year or more, of studying reading, math, social studies, science, and writing.

Approximately 50 people attended the event. The keynote address was delivered by Shelley Green, President of White Glove Service, Inc. Shelley encouraged the youth to pursue their individual dreams, not matter how far reaching they may be, and to strive to overcome any obstacles that may come their way.

Most of the Agency's GED students are part of the YouthLinks program, funded by the RI Department of Education and the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI. As part of YouthLinks, students received career exploration/counseling, work readiness training, job preparation assistance, and post secondary education awareness.

*"We are extremely pleased with our students and the quality of the instruction they have received."* noted South County Community Action CEO, Joseph DeSantis. Ninety-seven percent of this year's "senior class" successfully obtained their GED. That success represents over double the minimum requirement set by the RI Department of Education for GED preparation programs.

The GED, General Educational Development, tests are a group of five subject tests which, when passed, certify that the taker has high school-level academic skills. Only individuals who have not earned a high school diploma may take the GED tests. Common reasons for GED recipients not having received a high school diploma include immigration to the United States, homeschooling, leaving high school early, the inability to pass required courses or mandatory achievement tests, the need to work, personal problems, and wanting to get into college early. One in every seven Americans with high school credentials received the GED.

The Fall Semester of GED classes is set to begin in September and a few slots are still available. South County expects to serve over 100 youth during the 2010-2011 academic year throughout the Washington County area. In addition to the Wakefield office, the agency has satellite sites for GED prep in Westerly and Charlestown.

For information on enrolling in GED courses, please contact

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