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News Release

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Jefferson High School honors 75 outstanding students MVP pilot program delivers graduates, improved test scores, better grades

EDGEWATER, Colo. - On May 28 at 6:30pm, Jefferson High School in collaboration with Addison Avenue Federal Credit Union and Jefferson County Human Services - Colorado Works program will honor 75 students for outstanding performance in the MVP program. The program is in its first year and is designed to improve a participating student's academic skills, test scores and motivation. The program requires each student and his or her parent or guardian to sign a contract of participation for the school year. The student earns a monetary incentive based on:

- School attendance
- Participation in after-school activities
- ACT test scores above 20 and SAT scores above 710
- Parent participation
- Completion of the required courses for graduation

The end-of-year performance earnings for each student will range from \$400 to \$700. The students began the program with a \$50 signing bonus.

"This is a true celebration of excellence," says Riley Robert Hawkins, Jefferson High School social worker. "These kids have created a brighter future and better opportunities for themselves. The money was a huge motivator and greatly needed by many of the students whose families are hardworking and economically disadvantaged."

"My family at times has been without a permanent home," says Phillip Vesey, Jefferson High School freshman. "My MVP money goes into my bank account and I can help pay for things my family needs. I try to spend my money wisely. My goal is to go to college and become a video game designer."

The MVP Program started the school year with 75 students enrolled, including 20 seniors. Each senior is graduating. "We are a school looking for solutions to reduce the dropout rate. This year, our graduation rate improved to 75 percent. We need to do more, and programs such as MVP help us keep kids learning," Hawkins adds.

The MVP celebration and check presentation will be held Thursday, May 28, at Jefferson High School. The students and families will be treated to Frank's Bar-B-Que and receive summer passes to Elitch Gardens.

Hawkins says MVP results are encouraging, and he expects the program to continue with the help of state, local and private financial support.

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