



Aurora Public Schools

New Center Gets Students on Track to College

Recently, more than 70 students, staff, friends and family members of the Aurora Public Schools community gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the College Track/Summit 54 center, which helps local high school students get on track to attend college and earn a degree.

College Track, a national college access and completion program, and Summit 54, a Colorado-based education nonprofit, are confident that the center will increase the percentage of Aurora high school students who go on to college.



Last summer, the center welcomed its first 60 incoming freshmen at Rangeview High School, and they plan to add 50 students each year. Several of those inaugural students felt fortunate to be a part of the program.

“I needed this,” Rangeview freshmen Rodrigo Chacon said. “Last year I had a 1.5 GPA. This year it’s over 3.0. I see myself improving ... I see my life changing.”

Chacon’s fellow classmate, Anicette Kouassi, originally from Africa, said this is one of the best opportunities she’s been afforded since moving to the United States two years ago.

“I get help with my homework and I have fun,” Kouassi said. “It helps a lot to prepare for college.”

Go, Slow, Whoa Expands at APS

A healthy eating initiative known as “Go, Slow, Whoa” is expanding in APS. Through the use of colored symbols, students learn how to make healthy choices at the cafeteria. “Go” foods are identified by a green symbol and are beneficial to eat almost anytime. “Slow” foods are identified by a yellow symbol and should be eaten in moderation. “Whoa” foods are identified by a red symbol and should only be eaten on rare occasions.

Participating schools for the 2011-12 year include:

- Altura Elementary
- Boston P-8
- Clyde Miller P-8
- Crawford Elementary
- Lansing Elementary
- Laredo Elementary
- Montview Elementary
- Paris Elementary
- Park Lane Elementary
- Side Creek Elementary
- Tollgate Elementary
- Vassar Elementary
- Vista PEAK Exploratory P-8



APS is partnering with LiveWell Colorado, 7NEWS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the program. It is anticipated that “Go, Slow, Whoa” will expand to 18 more APS schools by 2014.

