

First class heads off to college

posted by: Linda Kotsaftis , Producer
Written by: Kim Christiansen , 9NEWS Anchor/Reporter

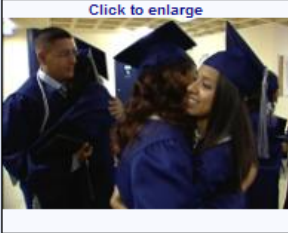
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First class heads off to college. 9NEWS at 4 p.m. 6/08/07

DENVER - Four years ago they came together to form a new high school.

Friday, they became the first graduating class from Arrupe Jesuit High School.

Arrupe is one of 12 schools across the country that offers a private, college preparatory, Catholic education to students who can least afford it.

The school is based on a work study program. Every student spends one school day on the job. They don't earn a paycheck. They do it to pay for a majority of their tuition. Corporate employers strengthen their staff with the student employees. This on the job training has allowed many of the students to focus their career goals.

Of the 47 graduates in the class of 2007, all of them will go to college. In fact, 80 percent have been admitted to a four year university. The class of 2007 has received scholarships totaling over \$2 million.

At graduation ceremonies, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper spoke about becoming mayor the same year

Arrupe opened its doors. He says "This great adventure, a grand experiment is working." Hickenlooper went on to say "We want every kid to be able to have the incredible life that these kids are going to have."

One of those students is Michelle Spreutels. Michelle hopes to become a doctor and treat patients who are uninsured or underinsured. Michelle was awarded a Johnson Foundation scholarship to cover her tuition at Regis University. Michelle says she is inspired by the smartest woman she knows, her mom. Michelle says her mom never had the chance to graduate from high school or college, and she has devoted her life to teaching her children about the value of a quality education.

For more information go to www.arrupejesuit.com.