

opinion

Arrupe is a model for success

Article Last Updated: 03/13/2007 12:04:24 AM MDT

Print Friendly View Email Article

Top ? Stories

Sorry, no items are currently available.

A success story is unfolding all too quietly at Arrupe Jesuit High School in northwest Denver. It's a story that deserves to be shouted out loud. The headline on a 9News.com article about the small school said it all: "Every single senior heading to college."

Arrupe students are mostly from groups often doomed to failure. Yet in June, the school will graduate its first class of 47 seniors - and all will go on to college. That's 100 percent - a figure any school would salivate over. And it isn't just the students' destination that stands out, but the journey. They all get real-life work experience, thanks to the school's innovative work-study program.

The graduation numbers are especially meaningful because the school serves primarily low-income, Hispanic students. Educators have been winning their hands for years over what to do about low-income and Hispanic or black students who drop out of school, or perennially under-perform in class and never make it to college.

They ought to investigate the model at Arrupe, where many of the students have earned merit-based scholarships for college. Nearly 75 percent of the students there qualify for the federal free and reduced-cost lunch program. The average income for an entire family of an Arrupe student is less than \$32,000 a year.

Arrupe is modeled after the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago, and is part of a network of schools that offer college-prep courses to low-income students, who are required to work one day a week in entry-level corporate jobs. The students work at 67 area businesses, including banks, law firms and hospitals, and it's often not just clerical work, or busy work. Students get real-life experience with possible careers, and witness adults at work. The companies that sponsor the students give the school about \$20,000 for the labor and that compensation pays 70 percent of their tuition.

We salute the upcoming graduates of Arrupe Jesuit, and hope they're just the beginning of a long tradition of Arrupe graduates who serve their communities and get a hand up in return.

Print Friendly View Email Article Return to Top Subscribe

MOST RECENT COMMENTS (0 COMMENTS IN TOTAL)

- Read All Comments
Comment on This Story

Denver & the West

Blogs | Obituaries RSS

- Big crowd due at Capitol for Iraq debate
Acen Phillips sued for insurance fraud
"Timeout" room uproar

Sports

Broncos | Nuggets | Preps | More RSS

- 4 Front Range schools need a coach
Paige: Odd man in for longevity
Mailbag: Personifying a franchise

Business

Al Lewis | Tech | More RSS

- Small firms' tax cut on tap
AG Suthers, General Steel settle lawsuit
Website lets users price title insurance

Entertainment

Husted | Movies | Music RSS

- Veteran pianist keys audience in
Updated: New DCTC offerings to rival Humana
DCTC season: Play by play

Opinion

Columns | Letters | More RSS

- Legislature right to weigh in on Iraq war
Not quite as endangered now
Justice revelations broaden

Watercooler

Arcade | Crossword | Sudoku RSS

- Coach gives birth, then goes to game
Man tells cops unicorn caused crash
Ad campaign pokes fun at Indonesia police

Top Stories

- Gonzales: My status up to Bush
School tug-of-war settled
House clarifies Amend. 41 ban on gifts
17-year-old dies in auto crash
Acen Phillips sued for insurance fraud
Copiers another threat in ID theft

Most Popular Stories

- Affair with teacher tough on student
Suspect dies in shoot-out with cops
Gonzales refuses to resign
Padres batter Francis
Jailer out for 'improper' inmate contact
Pastor sued for fraud
Avalanche claims two skiers
The violin femmes
Colo. couple find faceless dollar coin
Inmate dies of possible overdose

Marketplace Links

Restored Natural Beauty! Committed to achieving a more youthful appearance without surgery. http://www.denver...

500 FREE MILES ON ANY RV RENTAL! Own the open road with a rental from RV America! 500 additional miles on any full week rental!... www.rvamericainc....

Need a Personal Trainer? Fitness for Life can design a workout program to meet YOUR needs. http://postnewsad...

