

CAREER & EDUCATION

Londer Center Graduates Celebrate

GEDs bring second chance to adult learners

Community residents gathered last Thursday at the Multnomah County Building in southeast Portland to celebrate 75 adult probationers and parolees who received their GED from the Londer Learning Center.

The center, which is a GED and job skills program for adults, serves almost 1,000 individuals each year, all on probation, parole or in recovery.

"It's just wonderful to see what education does, and the positive change it can make," said Carole Scholl, the program manager for Londer Learning Center. "I hope our community continues to value education."

All of the graduates have overcome significant obstacles in order to attain their GED, and as a close to the ceremony, individuals from across the community shared their personal stories and how they came to be where they are today.

Although federal and state funding supports correctional education, many offenders re-enter the community without the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce.

Over three quarters have a



Edward Whitman, 28; Steven High, 23; and Donnie Yarn, 37, were among the 75 adult GED graduates celebrating the completion of their high school education Thursday from the Multnomah County Londer Learning Center.

history of substance abuse, and almost two thirds never received their high school diplomas. Often, adults in re-entry programs need programming that doesn't coincide with regular college schedules, which is why the Londer center focuses solely on adults with criminal

histories as a way to better aid the needs on a more intimate level.

Named after the late presiding Judge Donald H. Londer, and co-founded with John Ryan, the center is a nationally recognized adult center and one of 12 model sites of commu-

nity partnerships in adult learning across the nation recognized by the U.S. Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE).

Co-founder John Ryan attended the ceremony, at which he said he felt a sense of pride. "It's one of the most rewarding

things in my life," he explained. "To think that starting with just an idea can do so much good."

At the end of the ceremony, attendees ate cake and admired how far they have come. "I'm really happy," said 23-year-old Steven High, a GED recipient this year. "It's a great feeling."

Military Families Served on Campus

This month's grand opening of a new Army Strong Community Center on the Clackamas Community College campus in Oregon City is

the first such center west of the Mississippi River, and the first to be located at a community college.

The center is designed to

provide continuity of support to Army Reserve soldiers and families in the community where they live.

Service members, retirees, veterans and their families receive responsive services at the same level of access and resources as they would expect to find on a military installation. This initiative assists in mitigating the effects of mobilization and deployment to include the challenges of the military lifestyle.

Trained, qualified and skilled staff are available on a 24/7 basis for services that include military benefits, employment assistance, child and youth services, education benefits and family deployment issues. The center is open to all branches of the military.

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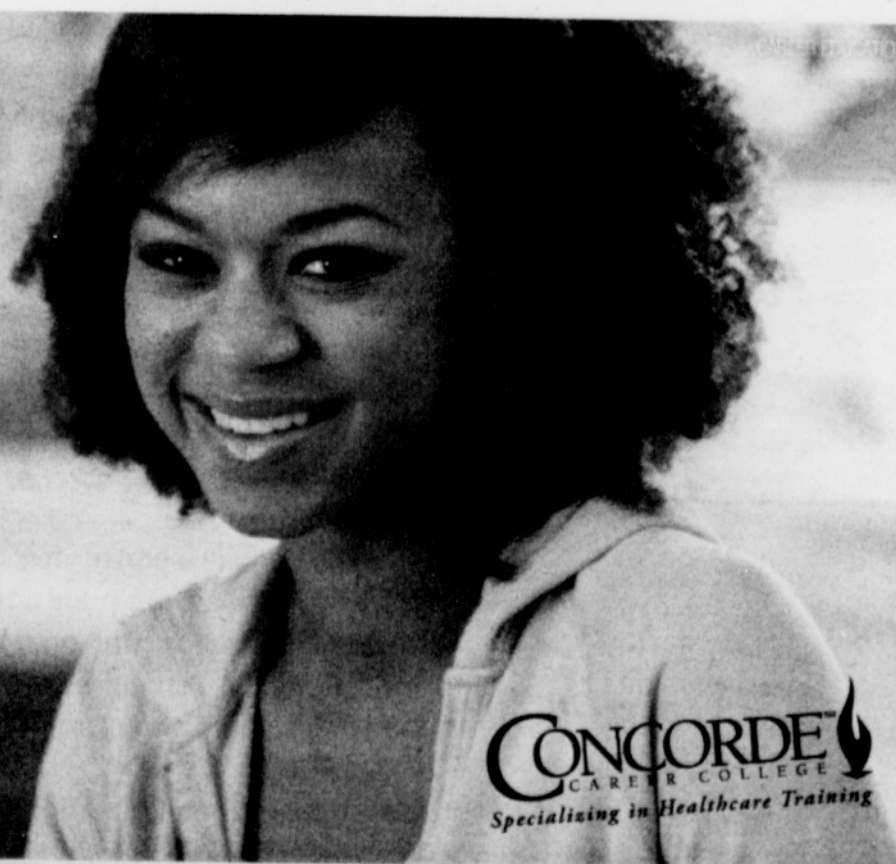
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