

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
County of Cook and State of Illinois

**Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center Graduates 98 Students;
Several Say Education Received Changed their Lives Dramatically**

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS

that Ninety-eight students graduated from Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center (HPVEC) career programs on July 31. The ceremonies that took place in the Wright College gymnasium were attended by administrators from both campuses, including Charles Guengerich, Wright's president and Madeline Roman-Vargas, dean of Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center.

Albert Murad, who graduated from the Electric/Electronic Industrial Maintenance (EEIM) Program, grew up in Iraq and suffered repression under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. His brother was killed under that regime. After coming to the United States as a political refugee, he heard about HPVEC's EEIM program from an Iraqi friend who had graduated from the program and planned to open his own business. Murad completed the program and was hired by his friend. He said that his decision to come to Wright College was one of the best things he could have done to improve the quality of life for himself and his family.

Grace Zwierzchowska had taken some college classes in Poland, but when she arrived in the United States she was only able to secure domestic jobs such as cleaning houses, baby sitting and elderly care. When she attended an orientation session on "Career Programs at Wright College" at the Polish-American Association, she heard about HPVEC's Information Processing Technology (IPT) Program. With new skills and intern experience, she was hired as registrar for the Career College of Chicago, a full-time permanent position with benefits.

David Martinez had been working several jobs to earn enough money to support his family. He said he came to HPVEC because he wanted steady employment with full benefits and decent wages. After completing the first phase of the CNC program, he received a job offer from Groph Industries as a "set-up" person at the rate of \$14 per hour. He is now learning additional skills on the job and is looking forward to working as a CNC operator, which utilizes an automated approach to the design and manufacturing of machine parts.

These are just three success stories of HPVEC graduates who greatly improved their lives and the lives of their families through vocational education.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson
Chancellor