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

Chicago Area Project Youth Workers Graduation
WASHINGTON COLLEGE

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS

that on Friday January 11th, Chicago Area Project's (CAP) and Harold Washington College held a graduation ceremony for youth workers in the new Feinberg Theatre at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies on South Michigan Avenue. Harold Washington College awarded Youth Development Practitioner Certificates to 28 in attendance from the total of 129 graduates, and;

that State Representative Kenneth 'Ken' Dunkin, 3rd District, gave the Graduation Speech to over 200 assembled graduates and guests. Ms. Carmen Alicea Reyes, Deputy Commissioner for Youth, Chicago's Department of Children and Youth Services (CYS), who funds CAP's training programs, provided remarks on behalf of Youth Service Workers in Chicago. George Bickford, Assistant Dean of Instruction, and Dr. Michael Heathfield, Instructor of Applied Sciences in Social Work and Youth Work, represented HWC. Mike spoke of the importance of professional development and the need for further higher education for those working with young people in youth and out-of-school programs. Two graduates also provided their perspectives on what their achievements meant to them as Youth Service Workers, and;

that Harold Washington has partnered with CAP since 2003 to deliver the college elements of this citywide professional education system for youth workers. Since then, over 1,200 youth workers have successfully completed Advancing Youth Development, the initial community-based training component. Nearly 400 youth workers have completed the two college courses that follow on from this achievement. Over 300 youth-serving community-based agencies have been involved in CAP's training profile for professionalizing the field of youth work, and;

that Harold Washington recently added new AA and AAS degrees in youth work to build on this strong community support. These associate degrees are, as far as we can ascertain, the first degrees in this curriculum in the State of Illinois. The youth worker program at the College, the Applied Sciences Department, and Public Agency and Special Programs is a partnership delivering real impact across the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson
Chancellor

February 7, 2008