

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS GED GRADUATION



Shon Holton, director of the Achievement Network of Houston County, was the keynote speaker at the Wallace Community College GED Commencement.

Dothan, Ala. April 1, 2012—Wallace Community College held commencement ceremonies for 25 graduates of the Adult Education GED program on Sunday, April 1, at 2:00 p.m., in Cherry Hall at the Wallace Campus in Dothan.

Director of Adult Education Linda Watson greeted the graduates: “We are so proud of these graduates, and their perseverance in obtaining their GED. We appreciate family and friends for supporting our graduates in this important step toward their future goals.” Watson and Karen Barefield, Adult Education Site Coordinator, presented the graduates. Wallace Community College President Dr. Linda C. Young congratulated the graduates after receiving their diplomas.

“GED graduates will be prepared to pursue higher education or to move into the local workforce with greater earning power than those without a high school diploma,” said Dr. Young. “Of the 25 GED graduates, 36% have already enrolled at Wallace Community College and 56% are planning to enroll.”

Shon Holton, director of the S.P.A.N. Program of Houston County, was the keynote speaker for the GED graduation. The S.P.A.N. (Special Programming for Achievement Network) Program is one of eleven similar programs in the state of Alabama designed to meet the needs of at-risk youth and their families. The program works with the Houston County Juvenile Court, Dothan

City Schools, Houston County Department of Human Resources and other agencies. An alumnus of Wallace Community College, Mr. Holton holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/human services from Troy State University, and a master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

"You are at the starting point of a wonderful journey," Holton said, smiling at the graduates. "Being adequately prepared to meet the expectations of potential employers and employment opportunities can become a reality if you take advantage of the opportunities to educate yourselves." Wallace Community College offers GED graduates one course at no charge to begin their postsecondary education. The free class is available at any community college in Alabama.

Wallace Community College offers free GED preparation classes through its adult education program at twelve locations in Houston, Henry, and Barbour counties

GED Graduates are Laura Elizabeth Aultman, Eufaula; Brandon Q. Barefield, Headland; Dakota Branton, Arifton; Melissa Waters Burkett, Kinsey; Devon Aaron Burks, Newville; Ashlie Cluney, Dothan; Kellyn Dufrene, Columbia; Mary D. Flucker, Headland; Terrance Gary, Eufaula; Kristin Halks, Ashford; Taylor Johnson, Dothan; Regina Lee, Dothan; Joseph C. Long, Dothan; Elizabeth Mallard, Dothan; Travis Ren Mattox, Dothan; Andrew B. McKenzie, Cowarts; Christy L. Melvin, Newville; Jennifer Dianne Morales, Dothan; Kelly N. Phillips, Abbeville; Joshua C. Quintero, Dothan; Kimberly Ann Shoub, Napier Field; Clava R. Stoddart, Dothan; Kimberlee A. Thomas, Newville; Timothy Joel Thomas, Dothan; and Latoria Wright, Eufaula.

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(L to R) Kellyn Dufrene, valedictorian (Columbia), and Melissa Burkett, salutatorian (Kinsey)



Kimberlee Thomas, honor graduate (Newville)



(L to R) Mary Flucker (Headland), and Melissa Merrill, adult education instructor



Brandon Barefield (Headland)



Elizabeth Mallard (Dothan)



Devon Aaron Burks
(Newville)



(L to R) Regina Lee
(Dothan) and Kelly Phillips
(Abbeville)



(L to R) Jennifer Dianne Morales
(Dothan) and Christy Melvin
(Newville)

CUT LINES:

Img 2239 (L to R): Kellyn Dufrene, valedictorian (Columbia), and Melissa Burkett, salutatorian (Kinsey)

Img 2240 (L to R): Kimberlee Thomas, honor graduate (Newville)

Img 2246 (L to R): Mary Flucker (Headland), and Melissa Merrill, adult education instructor

Img 2248 (L to R): Brandon Barefield (Headland)

Img 2250 (L to R): Elizabeth Mallard (Dothan)

Img 2252 (L to R): Devon Aaron Burks (Newville)

Img 2155 (L to R): Regina Lee (Dothan) and Kelly Phillips (Abbeville)

Img. 2169 (L to R): Jennifer Dianne Morales (Dothan) and Christy Melvin (Newville)