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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATES GRADUATES OF NEW RACINE PROGRAM

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, in collaboration with Gateway Technical College and Racine County Workforce Solutions, celebrates its first Racine Area High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) graduates.

RACINE, WI – In partnership with Gateway Technical College and Racine County Workforce Solutions, YWCA Southeast Wisconsin is proud to announce the first Racine-area graduates of its 5.09 HSED program – a 20-week program for adults without a high school credential. Graduates will be awarded a High School Equivalency Diploma at a graduation ceremony planned for 4:00 p.m. February 6, 2018, at Gateway Technical College’s Racine campus.

Since launching in August 2017, 13 adult students have completed coursework for the program. Enrollees in the program report benefits beyond the high school credential. Khaliah Anderson, a recent graduate explained, “I felt my self-esteem rise, my attitude change. I couldn’t be more grateful for the 5.09 program.” Student Melissa Hernandez said, “I loved being a part of a class again. The experiences in this class helped me rediscover myself.”

Operating the HSED program in its Milwaukee market since 2015, YWCA has graduated more than 100 adult learners in two years. YWCA’s HSED is based on coursework, rather than standardized testing. Students attend classes for 12 hours per week over a 20-week period and complete a variety of assignments and projects to demonstrate mastery of defined, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction approved competencies.

YWCA is proud to partner with Gateway Technical College, providing instructional hours for the program and with Racine County, providing classroom space and coordination support.

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“It is with great joy that we celebrate the accomplishment of these most recent graduates. The spirit of partnership and shared success with Gateway Technical College, Racine County and YWCA has been truly inspirational and exemplifies the type of collaborative effort that moves mountains,” said Jennifer de Montmollin, Chief Program Officer of YWCA Southeast Wisconsin.

“I want to congratulate the 13 graduates who put the hard work in to earn their high school credential, and I’m grateful for our partnership with YWCA and Gateway Technical College that made this program a success,” Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave said. “We know education is one of the biggest barriers that prevent people from getting a family-supporting job. With so many exciting opportunities on the horizon in Racine County, the 5.09 program is exactly the type of grassroots initiative we need to help lift residents into the workforce.”

Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht describes the 5.09 Program as “a unique opportunity for students to earn a high school credential, a critical first step on the path to a family supporting job or additional education.” Bryan added that “Gateway Technical College is proud to be a partner in this innovative program that incorporates real-world scenarios in the lesson plan, thus preparing students both professionally and personally for their next steps. Congratulations graduates!”

Adults 18.5 years or older who are interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to contact Katie Kasprzak at 262-638-6703 or katie.kasprzak@racinecounty.com or Jake Gorges at 414-267-3295 or jgorges@ywcawisconsin.org.

For more information about YWCA programs visit us at YWCASEW.ORG.

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YWCA Southeast Wisconsin was founded in 1892 (formerly YWCA Greater Milwaukee) and serves more than 12,000 individuals each year through their mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. YWCA fulfills this mission by providing resources and employment training to individuals facing poverty and discrimination, helping them to achieve economic success. At the same time, YWCA offers racial justice education that aims to eliminate disparities that disproportionately impact people of color. This combination of racial justice, economic empowerment, and workforce development programs is YWCA’s formula for creating a more just and equitable community.

