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SIXTEEN RESIDENTS COMPLETE 5.09 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM

Racine County Workforce Solutions partnership positions residents for jobs, additional education

Racine – A ceremony will be held Thursday, August 22, honoring 16 community members who graduated with their high school credential and are on a path toward jobs or additional education.

The event is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in the Racine Building at Gateway Technical College, 901 Pershing Drive. The ceremony honors graduates of the YWCA Southeast Wisconsin's 5.09 High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) program, a 15-week course offered at Racine County Workforce Solutions in partnership with YWCA Southeast Wisconsin and Gateway Technical College.

5.09 HSED is a competency-based, alternative diploma program approved by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction. Participants are not required to complete the five timed computer exams typically required to obtain a GED or HSED. Instead, they demonstrate their skills and understanding of the material by completing course work such as projects, quizzes, class discussions and homework.

In addition to receiving their HSED, students can earn ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is an assessment measuring the abilities of a potential employee in three important work-related areas – reading, math, and graphic literacy – and helps identify if an employee has the skills to be successful in a specific job.

“While the main goal of the YWCA's 5.09 HSED program is to provide individuals with their high school credential, the most critical part of the program is to prepare Racine County residents for life beyond this credential,” said Hope Otto, Racine County Human Services Director.

The YWCA's highly-successful 5.09 HSED Program was first offered in August 2017. Since that time, 132 residents have been awarded diplomas. With the City of Racine [recently selected](#) to join a national initiative to increase economic mobility, Racine County, YWCA Southeast Wisconsin and other community partners are working to scale up the success of this program and help even more local residents obtain their high school equivalency diploma.

Enrollment is now underway for the next 5.09 class. For more information, contact Marie Hargrove at 262.638.6703 or email mhargrove@ywcasew.org.

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