

St. Cloud Area Learning Center: Serving Over 4000 Graduates



Superintendent Steve Jordahl congratulates Ryan Blommer.

The St. Cloud Area Learning Center (ALC) recently celebrated their 4000th graduation at the McKinley Education Center's Celebration of Excellence event on September 25th, 2008. ALC Director Mark Lindquist presented an Apollo High School Diploma to Ryan Blommer who finished his high school graduation requirements this summer through the ALC Pace Program and Youthbuild.

A little history...

St. Cloud Area Learning Center started in 1968 with the purpose of pulling in students who had dropped out of high school as a result of turbulent times. The program graduated 16 students in 1969, and the number grew each year thereafter.

Today, ALC has become an essential educational center that serves many schools in Central Minnesota. Currently, St. Cloud ALC is made up of four different programs housed at two separate sites. ALC Wilson, 809 N. 12th Street, St. Cloud, offers the under-16 Middle Level Alternative Program (MLAP), the over-16 Senior High Program, and a computer-based Plado program. ALC West Pace Program is housed in the McKinley Education Center, 216 8th Ave. N., Waite Park. The Pace Program is an over-16 independent study program that offers: core classes, flexibility, accountability, parenting classes, childcare, business classes, college credits, and hand-on skills in construction through Youthbuild. Both ALC West and ALC Wilson offer curriculum that meets the state standards, and all teachers are licensed in their curriculum area. Generally, one-third of ALC students are referred from Tech High School, one-third of the students are from Apollo High School, and one-third of the students are referred from schools outside of District 742. In addition to the day-school programs, ALC also offers night school and summer school programs.

In order for a student to attend ALC, he/she must be referred by his/her home high school counselor. Students attending ALC must qualify for the alternative education by meeting at least one of the Qualifying At-Risk Criteria as outlined by Minnesota Graduation Incentives Legislation (Minnesota Statute 124D.68.)

A milestone reached...

Blommer recited his Senior Letter to a crowd gathered for the Celebration of Excellence at ALC West in Waite Park making the event extra special. His letter explained his path to ALC and honored the teachers who helped him reach his "dream to graduate." He went on to say, "The people here were great; they helped me whenever I needed it. You can tell when you're here, the teachers want you to succeed and they're going to do what it takes to make sure it happens."



ALC Director Mark Lindquist presents an Apollo diploma to Ryan Blommer.