

IN THE NEWS



CSSD Graduates Celebrate With Mayor And Councilwoman Parker

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Two weeks ago, Mayor Jim Kenney and Councilwoman Cherelle L. Parker addressed the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CSSD) Citywide Graduation, hosted by the City's Office of Adult Education (OAE), at the Temple University Performing Arts Center. The CSSD is issued to non-traditional students and is the equivalent of a high school credential. Nearly 200 graduates along with their families heard welcome remarks from Mayor Kenney and the keynote address from Councilwoman Parker.

"Adult education is key to a good quality of life for ourselves, our families and our neighborhoods," said Kenney. "It is vital that we make education a priority for all Philadelphians."

Parker, who serves the Ninth Council District in Philadelphia, congratulated the graduates.

"You have displayed true grit by having the passion and perseverance to overcome various obstacles, and you serve as models to your peers that you can succeed no matter where you start in the race of life. I encourage you to keep setting your goals high and not let anyone or anything stop you."

Following Kenney and Parker, the graduates listened to sponsor remarks by Robert F. Smith, regional vice president of community impact for Comcast. "Comcast is proud to call Philadelphia our hometown," said Smith. "It is an honor to support this graduation ceremony and celebrate the achievements of CSSD graduates throughout the city."

Commencement speakers Joari Otero, Joseph Tulibacki and Tia Walker delivered brief remarks to their fellow graduates. They came from the adult education programs of Temple University's Center for Social Policy and Community Development (Temple CSPCD), Northeast Learning Center and Community Learning Center, respectively. Tulibacki shared, "I encourage all the graduates to keep paying forward. When we see how our lives change from these diplomas, let's encourage others to achieve the same."

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News and Community Affairs Director for iHeartMEDIA Loraine Ballard Morrill announced the graduates as they received their diplomas. “We commend your courage in reaching your goals and sharing your stories, you are truly inspirational.”

Diane C. Inverso, executive director for OAE, closed the ceremony with acknowledgements and special remarks. “Today would not have been possible without the support from the adult education community and practitioners who not only teach, but are dedicated to their learners and encourage them to follow their dreams.”



In addition to Temple CSPCD, Northeast Learning Center and Community Learning Center, adult education providers Center for Literacy, Congreso de Latinos Unidos and Lutheran Settlement House joined in celebrating the graduates.

The CSSD is a high school equivalency credential available to Pennsylvania residents who do not possess a high school diploma and who have met criteria in the Pennsylvania Code. The CSSD may be achieved by passing the GED® or HiSET® tests, or by completing the 30 College Credit Option.