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mas. "More students are finding they don't fit in a traditional high school," said Terry Leland, supervisor of the adult education program. "They sometimes get lost with the larger group of kids. And the counselors at our three high schools are more aware of us now than they were five or six years ago, and they refer students to us."

Probably the highlight for most who attended the program was an emotional speech by adult education graduate Ben Raby, who enrolled in the program after recovering from a closed head injury sustained in an automobile accident. Following the accident, which took place two years ago, he was in a coma for five days.

Thankful

Raby, 18, totally turned things around. He was a member of the student roundtable leadership group, shadowed Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield during the Students Operating Schools program and received (as did graduates Jason Davidson and Juan "Tan") a \$2,500 Michigan Merit Award Scholarship for performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

"For these experiences, I have to thank Farmington schools," Raby said during his speech. "I do not feel that I would have ever taken part in these activities at my school back home. No matter what your past is, none of the faculty ever has any doubts whether or not you can succeed

in school.

"They believe you can succeed, sometimes (believing) even more than some of the students themselves. To be 'written off' as a failure or delinquent just isn't a word in their vocabulary."

Both Priscilla Brouillette and Linda Enberg, of the Farmington Board of Education, were almost spellbound by Raby's speech. The student talked about making it back from the coma, about how his life was turned around at the community school.

"From that (the head injury), he came here and had to re-learn the basic skills," said Brouillette, who presented Raby with his diploma. "He then pursued his diploma, ... and was able to turn his life around. He got a \$2,600

scholarship and will go to a vocational school."

Enberg said Raby's speech was inspirational.

"It was just remarkable to see this young man, who is building his confidence, write such an inspirational piece," Enberg said. "It was heartfelt."

Other adult ed graduates receiving awards included: Kevin Adams, \$1,000 from Imagine America foundation and \$4,000 from National Institute of Technology; twins Joni and Jaclyn Brachel each received \$1,500 merit scholarships from Oakland Community College; Dawn Clark and Jeannie Evans received \$500 scholarships from Farmington Adult Education.



Memories: Graduate Christina Moran hugs teacher Diane Kovac at commencement ceremonies for adult education and the Farmington Alternative Academy.

STAFF PHOTO BY MEL BERNARD

Adult education now draws the younger generation

Farmington Community School, under the leadership of Director Terry Klenczar and Terry Leland, supervisor, houses the district's adult education program. Students in adult education can attend classes during

the day, at night, or a combination, Leland said.

Many of the adult education students are between ages 18-20, which Leland said is a major change from the past.

"Over the last five years, our students have become younger and younger," Leland explained. "It used to be that adult ed meant people in their 30s and 40s. But now, 85 percent of our graduates are under age 20."

The Farmington Alternative Academy, led by Principal Dianne Duthie, is located at the Farmington Training Center. Students at the academy attend full-time classes Monday through Friday.

About 30 percent of adult education graduates reside outside Farmington Public Schools.

However, to attend the alternative academy, students must live within the district and complete a formal application process.

Principal Ben Chin heads up the William E. Miller School, which had four students graduate on June 8.

CLASS OF 2000 ADULT AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

The following graduates attended: Farmington Adult Education, housed at Farmington Community School; Farmington Alternative Academy; or the William E. Miller School.

A Maisa Abdulmajed (adult education), Robert Adair (alternative academy), Kevin Adams (adult education), Peter Agoubi (adult education), Jessica Alford (alternative academy), Stephen Amayo (adult education) and Angela Arpi (adult education).

B David Baluk (adult education), Mary Barringer (adult education), Corey Bassett (William Miller School), Kevin Bayer (adult education), Paul Berner (adult education), Joseph Bonacci (adult education), Jaclyn Brachel (adult education), Joni

Brachel (adult education), Karla Brzak (adult education) and Andrew Burkhardt (adult education).

C Marie Capocella (adult education), Dawn Clark (adult education), Randy Clark (alternative academy), James Cochran (adult education) and Elizabeth Coughlin (adult education).

D Jason Davidson (adult education), Nadia Degraffenreid (William Miller School) and Megan Donoghue (alternative academy).

E Jeannie Evans (adult education).

F Timothy Falk (adult education), Rachael Foreman (adult education) and Mark Fultz

(adult education).

G Neal George (adult education), Kurt Gibson (adult education), Ian Gilbert (alternative academy), Anthony Gjonaj (adult education), John Goetzinski (adult education), Nicole Gross (alternative academy) and Stephen Guerriere (alternative academy).

H Matthew Halliday (alternative academy) and Paul Holm (adult education).

J Daniel Jaede (alternative academy), Sana Jamil (adult education) and Kevin Jodway (adult education).

K Glenn Kaminski (adult education).

L Glenn Ledingham (adult education), Gennifer Leiwke

(adult education), Anthony Lema (adult education) and Alex Leone (adult education).

M Alvin Mansour (adult education), Ryan Marsee (adult education), Evan McCloud (adult education), Michael McSorley (adult education), Jennifer Milanovich (adult education), Christina Moran (alternative academy), Justin Morency (adult education), Brent Morey (adult education) and Jason Muskovitz (alternative academy).

O Jason Olaszewski (adult education).

P Laura Paggi (adult education), Timothy Parker (adult education) and Bryan Potvin (alternative academy).

R Benjamin Raby (adult education), Frank Rauth (adult education), Nicole Robinson (adult education), Tamika Robinson (alternative academy) and Michelle Roth (adult education).

S Thomas Sanders (adult education), Tanya Sandhu (adult education), Diana Sarkisova (adult education), Jonathan Schmid (adult education), Crystal Scott (adult education), Brianne Silberschein (alternative academy), Kristen Simmons (adult education), Michelle Simonovic (alternative academy), Michael Sinuk (adult education), Dawn Sivic (adult education), Amanda Stephen (alternative academy), Felix Stephens (adult education), Gracie Stephenson (alternative academy) and Stefanie Swayze

(alternative academy).

T Antonio Talley (William Miller School), Juan (Tina) Tan (adult education), Melanie Thomas (adult education) and Melissa Truitt (adult education).

W Daniel Walker (adult education), Kevin Warr (alternative academy), Nicole Wells (alternative academy), Kristy Wheeler (alternative academy), Melissa Whitley (adult education), Robyn Williams, Roahawn Williams (adult education), Sherry Wilson (adult education) and Adam Wright (adult education).

Y Emily Yagerman (adult education) and Elmira Young (William Miller School).

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