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## 70 STUDENTS EARN GEDs; ALSO ARE GIVEN COMPUTERS

HIGH POINT – A record 70 students not only earned their GEDs but each student also received a refurbished computer at graduation May 19 on the High Point campus of Guilford Technical Community College.

The PCs for GEDs awards program, which was started in the fall of 2001 as an educational project of Leadership High Point, has resulted in 811 GED graduates receiving computers. The most computers awarded to any class until the most recent graduates was 69 by the class of 2002. Value of the computers awarded has been estimated at between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

The college's Information Technology Department refurbishes computers donated to the GED program. Computers that are no more than five years old are accepted for the program, according to Janette McNeill, dean of the GTCC High Point campus.

The program is sponsored by High Point Chamber of Commerce, GTCC Foundation, GTCC and the PCs for GED Committee. Larry Craven of the chamber manages the program.

Charles Cain of Banner Pharmacaps and also the chairman of the High Point Chamber of Commerce, told the graduates that they "have demonstrated perseverance and maturity" in choosing to complete their high school education. "Please don't view this as the completion of your learning experience," Cain said. "To achieve success, formal and informal education must continue throughout your lifetime," he said.

Cain offered Five Rules for Success for the students:

\* "First – Keep Learning. Formal or informal, there is always room for improvement. Try new things. Take a risk. Stretch yourself. One day you will discover people are looking to you because you are the one who knows how to get things done.

\* "Second – Hit Your Commitments. Do what you said you would do. You want to be known as the person who gets things done. I guarantee new doors will open up for you.

\* "Third – Take Action Now. Don't put things off. ... be a person of action.

\* "Fourth – Be on Time. This sounds simple but it is not. When you are late for meetings, class or appointments, it sends the message something else was more important to you.

\* "Fifth – balance Work and Life – take time for whatever is important to you: family, sports, hobbies, church – whatever it may be, make it a priority in your life. As the old saying goes: 'Work to live. Don't live to work.'"

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