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## **Children & Education Career Academy seniors show portfolios, are awarded college credit at May 27 ceremony at CRCHS**

They are your children's and grandchildren's future teachers, coaches, school officials, and children and family professionals. On May 27, five area high school seniors enrolled in the Children & Education Career Academy presented their portfolios, marked the upcoming completion of their studies and were awarded college credit in a ceremony at Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, where the unique program is based.

Presenting their portfolios and receiving SUNY Cobleskill credits at the ceremony were Children & Education Career Academy and Cobleskill-Richmondville High School seniors Keegan Griffith, Sarah Wayman, Ashley Weingarten and Lindsey Westerveld, and Children & Education Career Academy and Schoharie High School senior Adrianna Diamond. The students made oral presentations to panels of representatives of education and business, who interviewed each student about his or her Academy studies and projects, portfolio, plans for higher education and career goals. The students earned up to 15 college credits through the Academy, with certificates awarded to them at the ceremony by SUNY Cobleskill's Dr. Sandra Malcolm.

Also at the May 27 ceremony, Lindsey Westerveld was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society in recognition of academic and individual excellence. Westerveld earned a 92 average or higher in her Academy coursework and an overall average of 85 or higher, and met attendance standards.

The Children & Education Career Academy is a joint program of Cobleskill-Richmondville High School and the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School and is open to high school juniors and seniors from throughout the region. Juniors currently enrolled in the full-day program include Amal Babiker (Cobleskill-Richmondville High School) and Ashley Johnstone (Sharon Springs). Children & Education Career Academy faculty include Academy Teacher Deb Hall, English Teacher Kim Back, Chemistry Teacher Andrea Falco, and Economics/Participation in Government Teacher Diana Spenello.

Speakers at the May 27 ceremony included Hall and Back, Cobleskill-Richmondville High School Assistant Principal Davis Chamberlain, Capital Region BOCES Director of Career & Technical Education Dr. Hank Stopinski, SUNY Cobleskill's Dr. Malcolm, and National Technical Honor Society Advisor and Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School Early Childhood Education Teacher Cynthia Jennings.

The Children & Education Career Academy offers students who are interested in careers centered around children, such as teaching elementary, preschool or special education, becoming a family services professional or entering the helping professions. The Academy unites the best qualities of career and technical education and academic study with the ability to earn up college credits while still in high school. Academy students learn alongside peers who share their interests and talents through focused study and hands-on experiences. They put classroom theory into practice by working with young children in a variety of settings, including local elementary schools, preschools and child development centers. Academic classes - Regents math, English, social studies, science - relate lessons to the field of education whenever possible.

Information on the Children & Education Career Academy is available on the Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical School Web site, [www.bocescareertech.org/Programs/ChildEducCA.htm](http://www.bocescareertech.org/Programs/ChildEducCA.htm).

Photo caption:

Celebrating their Children & Education Career Academy accomplishments at Cobleskill-Richmondville H.S. on May 27 were (from left): Chemistry Teacher Andrea Falco, Academy Teacher Deb Hall, Academy seniors Ashley Weingarten, Lindsey Westerveld, Adrianna Diamond, Sarah Wayman, and Keegan Griffith, and English Teacher Kim Back. Not pictured: Economics/Participation in Government Teacher Diana Spenello.