

Meet Jesus Jaquez



Pictured here: Jesus at his graduation from Aurora Community College with some of his teachers and Futures Principal Joy Smith on the left.

Jesus came to Futures Academy of Colorado Youth for a Change in the fall of 2011. In the semester prior, he was a witness in a murder trial and missed the majority of the semester. He was behind in credit and in truancy court with the district. A friend who was attending Futures told him about the program and so he visited Futures in the hopes of enrolling.

When Jesus first started at Futures Academy his goal was to take his GED within three weeks and “be done.” The staff talked him into staying and within his first semester, he was taken off of truancy court because he attended every class, every day. His language arts instructors encouraged him to go to Pickens and his student advisor convinced him to take a class at the Community College of Aurora (CCA). The following semester he was enrolled at Pickens in a General Service Technician program and enrolled in a class at CCA. One Pickens program led to another and one CCA class turned into pursuing a degree.

The goal of Futures Academy is that students leave the program with certificates from Pickens, college credits, up to an Associate

Degree from CCA, their GED, or any combination of the three. Jesus graduated from Futures Academy this past May with three certificates from Pickens Technical College, an Associate of General Studies from CCA, and his GED. He is the first student from Futures

to complete an Associate Degree through our program and is an inspiration to staff and peers. He found his own drive and desire to create a future for himself.

“I plan to see how far school will take me. I’m really not one to set plans. If I did I would have only been here for 3 weeks. Now I find myself here. I just want to say thanks. Nothing I ever accomplished at CCA and Pickens was on my own. It was thanks to their [Futures] support and patience. Thank you to everyone at Futures and CYC.” Even though he is reluctant to say what’s next for him, he has applied and is planning on attending one of several four-year universities in the fall and the Futures staff is confident that we will see him walk across another stage.