The HiSET® program presented its third annual conference last December to show appreciation for the continued support of states, test center staff and adult basic education providers. Held in San Francisco, the event drew more than 240 participants from 31 states and jurisdictions. The strong commitment of the participants was evident, especially since this was the first time a registration fee was required.

The conference offered a variety of valuable information, networking opportunities and beneficial resources. Presentations included ways to instruct and prepare test takers for the exam, community engagement efforts to promote adult basic education, conversions to computer-based testing and workforce initiatives.

One of the more rewarding moments of the conference was the opportunity to meet and share the success story of a HiSET test taker from California. Claudia Reyes is a young Colombian-American woman who moved to the United States with her family in 1999. In 2005, she enrolled in an ESL and English program at the City College of San Francisco (CCSF), and in 2009 she received a certificate in Classical Dance Performance. Claudia’s wish was to enroll in the master’s program at the Culture of Life Institute and become a certified nutritional counselor.

But Claudia soon discovered that a high school equivalency credential was required to fulfill her wish. So she took the HiSET exam at CCSF earlier this year — and passed. Claudia is currently in the process of registering at the Culture of Life Institute and is grateful to all those at CCSF who helped her prepare for the exam. She explained that there were many times she needed to reach out to the instructors, and they were always there ready to explain and assist her with any questions.

The National Executive Director for the HiSET program, Amy Riker, also took a moment to recognize two exceptional individuals in the field of adult education from the state of California. Monica Balbuena, Coordinator of Adult Counseling Services and High School Equivalency Chief Examiner for Los Angeles Unified School District, and Christine Paynton, Instructor at the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Program in Concord. Their dedication to and passion for adult learners and the HiSET program can be seen firsthand in the California HiSET testimonial video.

The HiSET program thanks all those who contributed to the success of the conference.

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