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News Release

Binational Teachers Provide Valuable Insight to Local Classrooms as Part of Exchange Program

The Colorado Department of Education will host a lunch reception for 10 Mexican teachers in recognition for their work as part of a binational teacher exchange program. The lunch will be held at noon on Friday, July 25, 2008 at the Sheraton Denver, 1550 Court Place in Denver.

The teachers have been working over the summer in the southwest region, south central Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and the Centennial BOCES as part of the Binational Teacher Exchange Program (BTEP), a component of the Binational Migrant Education Program (BMEP).

The visiting Mexican teachers participated in migrant summer sessions for a four to six week period as part of an educational and cultural exchange. Mexican teachers shared information about the Mexican educational system to their U.S. counterparts. The binational teachers also supported students in native language instruction; primarily in reading and writing, and provided insight on the history and culture of Mexico.

BMEP was initiated and supported by individual states with migrant student populations that migrate regularly between Mexico and the U.S. The teachers are visiting from four Mexican states: Nayarit, Guanajuato, Coahuila and Chihuahua.

Also this week, the Summer Migrant Youth Leadership Institute, a four-day event for migrant high school students in grades 9-12 from across the state, wraps up tomorrow (Friday, July 25). The institute is being held at Western State College in Gunnison. The purpose of the Institute is to motivate and empower migrant students to achieve their educational goals, reach their potential and be leaders in their schools and communities.

CDE's Language, Culture and Equity unit has high hopes that students connect with future leaders who will help shape the migrant community and inspire others to achieve the impossible.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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