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### **Colorado Technical University Sioux Falls Celebrates 2011 Winter Commencement**

*Single mother who juggled two jobs, five children shares inspirational story with community, fellow graduates as student speaker*

**SIOUX FALLS, S.D., Jan. 26, 2011** – Seventy-nine students celebrated their academic success at Colorado Technical University (CTU) Sioux Falls during the 2011 winter commencement on Jan. 9.

The event was held at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in downtown Sioux Falls. Of the graduates, 31 students received associate degrees, 28 received bachelor's degrees and 20 received master's degrees. Four of the students earned their degrees online through CTU.

Among the graduates was Teri McKenney, a single mother of five who returned to school two years ago at age 46. She served as the student speaker during the graduation ceremony.

"I earned my associate degree in nursing in 1985, but between five kids and two jobs, I couldn't find the time to get the bachelor's degree I'd always wanted," said McKenney. "The flexible and evening class schedules at CTU helped me balance my work, my studies and my life. I don't think I could have done it otherwise."

Despite a challenging path, her persistence and desire paid off, she told her fellow graduates during the ceremony. At times, she said she thought she'd never make it, and she admitted that the pressures of working and studying caused her to consider dropping out before the end of the first quarter.

If not for two CTU faculty members who went above and beyond to help her, she said she would have fallen short of her academic goal. Now, with her degree in hand, McKenney has plans to manage a clinic or pursue a career in health care management.

Among the other highlights of the graduation ceremony, Slater Barr, president of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation, delivered the commencement speech. Barr has led the foundation for two years, helping create and guide growth in the region.

CTU Sioux Falls offers degrees in the following areas: business and management, criminal justice and legal studies, engineering and computer science, information systems and technology and health sciences.

### **About Colorado Technical University**

Founded in 1965, Colorado Technical University (CTU) provides higher education for today's career-focused students and offers students support, flexibility and resources to advance personally and professionally. CTU offers associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. CTU campuses include ground schools in Denver; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Pueblo, Colo.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Kansas City. The school also delivers degree programs 100 percent online via its award-winning virtual campus, which was recognized as "Best of the Best" in the 2009 Computerworld Honors Program. For more information, please visit [www.coloradotech.edu](http://www.coloradotech.edu).

CTU is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more info visit [www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org) or call 312-263-0456. CTU is also a member of the Career Education Corporation (NASDAQ:CECO) network of universities, colleges and schools. For more information visit [www.careered.com](http://www.careered.com). CTU does not guarantee employment or salary.

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