

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Graduation a Celebration of Success

Graduation is a time to celebrate stories of success and the paths that students have taken to reach their goals. At South Seattle Community College the accomplishments of the class of 2007 will be celebrated on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jerry Brockey Student Center.

For those who know about community colleges – institutions that are truly open to all – graduation takes on a deeper meaning. These community institutions are more than colleges. They are places where community members can find a new start.

One of our inspirational stories is computing student Teklezgy Sequar. He has shown that with perseverance you can accomplish anything. His life is about working hard and striving for success.

Sequar is originally from Eritrea, a country situated in northern East Africa. He came to the Seattle area where his brothers and sister are living because of the continuing conflict his country has had with Ethiopia. The conditions of his life were dangerous because he had to serve in the military – a choice he did not make freely.

After arriving here, Sequar enrolled at South in 1993 as an Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language student. With the college's preparatory courses he was able to bring his math and English skills up to a college level (grade 3.5 in English 102 and 4.0 in English 101) and begin taking credit courses in the college's Computing Technology program. In 2005, Sequar received his first degrees, an Associate of Applied Science in Network Technician and an Associate of Applied Science in Network Administration. He will be graduating again this year with an Associate of Arts degree.

Sequar is not finished with his studies. He hopes to complete his Bachelor of Science in Technology: Applied Technology by 2008. The degree is one of three bachelor's degrees that South offers on its campus. This one is offered by Eastern Washington University. His goal is to find a career in the IT industry.

Sequar has this to say about his stay at South:

“My experience here at South Seattle Community College is a blessing. I never thought I would have this opportunity to go to school and change my life. But I discovered with determination and commitment anything is possible. Of course it takes struggle and

sacrifice to be in college. However, with the support of my family and friends and the college faculty and staff, I was able to succeed. In the end, my sacrifice and determination have paid off and it feels great to be graduating. I encourage anyone who wants to make a change in life to follow their dream.”

Sequar’s story shows how South Seattle Community College students can live the school motto of “Start Here, Go Anywhere.” The college congratulates the achievements of all of its graduates of 2007.

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