

## THE PITON FOUNDATION



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## **COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA HELPS 1,276 LOW-INCOME TAX PAYERS RECEIVE \$2.96M IN REFUNDS**

AURORA, Colo. – During the 2013 tax season, Community College of Aurora partnered with the Denver-based Piton Foundation to provide free tax preparation assistance to low- to moderate-income families through the Tax Help Colorado program. At CCA's free tax site, IRS-trained students filed 1,276 returns, helping local tax payers claim more than \$2.96 million in refunds.

This year, 43 students from CCA spent 1,508 hours preparing and filing returns for individuals with household incomes of less than \$50,000, helping to alleviate the burden of commercial tax preparation costs on low-wage earners. Ninety-six percent of tax returns prepared by Tax Help Colorado were e-filed.

Many of the taxpayers who visit CCA's free tax site are eligible for tax benefits for working families with children such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). One of the nation's most successful anti-poverty programs, the EITC promotes employment while providing valuable refunds to low-wage earners who oftentimes struggle to make ends meet for their families. At Community College of Aurora, working families claimed in excess of \$1.15 million in EITC refunds this year.

In 2013, 16 colleges participating in Tax Help Colorado operated 26 free tax sites at 16 college campuses statewide. Overall, more than 9,200 individuals received free tax preparation services. In addition, the sites processed 236 prior-year returns, bringing the total number of returns filed to 9,444, which is a 33% increase over last year. Tax Help Colorado helped families claim more than \$18.5 million in tax refunds in 2013, including nearly \$6.8 million from the EITC.

For more information on Tax Help Colorado, please visit [www.piton.org/eitc](http://www.piton.org/eitc).

### ***About Community College of Aurora***

CCA has campuses at CentreTech and Lowry in the greater Denver area. Equipped with the latest technologies, CCA allows students to study new and traditional programs, while also offering online learning. CCA's service community spans 325,000 people in a 350-square-mile area and CCA's student population reflects that diversity. The college provides lifelong educational opportunities, prepares the current and future workforce, and promotes excellence in teaching, learning and service.

### ***About The Piton Foundation***

The Piton Foundation sponsors the Tax Credits for Working Families Public Information Campaign and Tax Help Colorado as part of its efforts to help move Colorado families from poverty and dependence to self-sufficiency. Piton is a private foundation located in Denver, Colorado. It was established in 1976 by Denver energy entrepreneur Sam Gary.

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