

Local Running Start graduates will receive accolades

Four local high school students are part of the 2006 Clark College Running Start graduating class.

Among this year's 59 Running Start graduates earning associate's degrees in June will be Camas High School students Matt Cornell, Thomas Miller and Thomas Stonick, and Washougal High School student Fylicia McCarthy.

Running Start allows eligible high school juniors and seniors to take classes to earn college credit while they fulfill their high school gradua-

tion requirements.

Dr. R. Wayne Branch, Clark College president, congratulated this year's graduates.

"At Clark College, we have built pathways to success for thousands of students over the years, and we are grateful for the opportunity to touch their lives," he said. "I am proud to congratulate our 2006 Running Start graduates and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in our community and beyond for years to come."

Running Start students

attend regular Clark classes during the day or in the evening, along with "regular" college students. They can choose from a full range of academic and professional or technical courses as long as the students meet the criteria and the classes are college-level.

The tuition for eligible students is covered by the school district. Students pay for books, transportation, and any miscellaneous class fees.

Program Manager Linda Calvert said Running Start participants have a variety of

strengths and talents.

"Successful Running Start students are generally self-motivated, emotionally mature, and looking for additional academic challenges," she said. "They also have excellent study and time management skills. They have college-level skills and maturity, which enables many of them to earn their associate degrees from Clark at the same time that they earn their high school diplomas."