Holyoke's Amanda Bennett was one of six recognized at the May 8 commencement ceremony at the University of Colorado in Boulder, for having straight As throughout her college years.

For Bennett, the accomplishment marked 17 years of straight As, as she has never rated less than an A on any report card since she entered kindergarten at Holyoke Elementary School.

Only six out of the 5,500 CU graduates achieved the 4.0 status, and all were seated on stage at last Friday's graduation, as they were introduced individually, receiving their CU Chancellor's Award medals.

Bennett, who finished her B.A. degree in psychology in four years, graduated Summa Cum Laude, with distinction. She plans to go on to nursing school, with her ultimate goal to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Bennett was featured in an article in the Boulder Daily Camera, highlighting her fine achievement and the dedication required to obtain such high academic honors.

Having worked in the Cognitive Development Center in the psychology department at CU-Boulder, Bennett completed research on cognitive inhibition. She wrote an Honors Thesis and had to present and defend it in front of the Honors board.

Since her freshman year at CU-Boulder, Bennett has been a member of the Integrative Physiology Student Board, and has served as chair this past year. She has been a part of the Student Association of PreHealth Professionals and a member of its PreNursing subgroup.

In addition to campus involvement, Bennett has enjoyed volunteer work within the Boulder community. She volunteered in the cardiology department at Boulder Community Hospital and also at the Family Learning Center in the preschool and pre-kindergarten programs for underserved and minority families.

Bennett's self discipline and high standards have led her to high academic achievement as she works her way toward her career goals.

Family and friends joined in celebrating her achievement at Friday's commencement in Boulder.

Those attending included Amanda's parents, Mike and Susan Bennett, and sister Mallory, as well as her grandparents, Neil and Hilda Hassler and Peggy Bennett, all of Holyoke.

Also attending were Tom Bennett and Debbie Hoffner of Holyoke, Alan and Karla Hassler of Grand Junction, Charles Hassler of Denver, Paul and Bev Hassler of Colorado Springs and Dave Rice of Julesburg.