

Local student hits the college scholarship jackpot

ShaLonda Morgan nets almost \$200,000 in college scholarships; Carver graduate decides to attend N.C. Central University

BY MELDE RUTLEDGE
THE CHRONICLE

College tuition is rising twice the rate of inflation. The necessity to be familiar with financial planning for a child to attend college has never been greater.

On June 7, President Bush signed into law an extensive tax relief that is partly designed to assist those families with the cost of higher learning. Unfortunately, the new law doesn't take effect until or after Jan. 1, 2002 — too far away for some.

But for ShaLonda Morgan, 18, money for school will not be a dilemma.

As a graduate of Carver High School last month, Morgan applied to eight universities. Her first letter back was from Fayetteville State University. When she opened the envelope and read their response, she was overjoyed to see that the university offered her a full scholarship.

"I was shocked," she said. "I was just jumping up and down, screaming and hollering, saying, 'Thank you, Jesus.'"

Adding to her joy were five more universities that also granted her full academic scholarships, totaling \$192,500. Her decision to attend N.C. Central

University was a hard one. She plans to major in computer information systems there.

"I want to get a computer background and probably be a librarian," she said.

Her work with the public library at the Carver School Road branch has prepared her for this endeavor.

"She is a very conscientious person," said Louise Leggett, the library supervisor there. "She comes to work every day on time, and goes above and beyond her duty."

Leggett is very proud of Morgan and said that her thoughts of being a librarian are mainly because of the rewarding work that she has done and seen the librarians do during the year and a half she's worked with the library.

"I think that when she saw all the things that we had to do, she had a better appreciation for it," said Leggett.

Not worrying about money for school has especially pleased Morgan's parents.

"They were extremely glad that they didn't have to pay anything," she said.

Most surprising to them was the fact that Morgan didn't apply for the scholarships.

"I just went to school, and I did my best."



Morgan

Photo by Melde Rutledge

Newspaper association awards The Chronicle

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Chronicle was among the winners at the 2001 National Newspaper Publishers Association's Merit Awards held last week in Atlanta. The awards were the highlight of the yearly convention held by NNPA, a national newspaper group whose membership includes more than 200 African-American newspapers in the United States.

The Chronicle won second place in the best business section category. T. Kevin Walker, managing editor of The Chronicle, also received a second-place award for best news feature for a story he wrote on a local

ceremony honoring the memory of an African immigrant who was shot to death by New York police.

"We are especially proud of the award for our business page," Walker said. "We began the page just a year ago as a way to showcase local and national movers and shakers. We knew from the start that we were doing something right with Business Focus. This award only validates that."

Over its 28-year history, The Chronicle has received countless awards from NNPA, including being named the best African-American newspaper in the nation twice.

Voting rate lower among blacks in N.C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE — Blacks in North Carolina vote at a lower rate than whites despite constant registration drives and laws making it easier to cast ballots, according to a newspaper study.

In Mecklenburg County, 56 percent of voting-age whites went to the polls in November compared to 45 percent of blacks. Overall, North Carolina's gap was more than 12 percentage points, the Charlotte Observer reported Monday.

"We're well aware of the gap," said Fred Yates, political action chairman for the NAACP's N.C. chapter. "We've got a long way to go."

The study reflected a national pattern caused primarily by socio-economic factors. Poor and low-educated people are less likely to vote than others, studies show, and blacks make up a disproportionate share of that group.

Black voting rises at the higher end of the socio-economic ladder.

"If you could correct for (income) nationwide, then blacks are actually more likely to participate than whites in the same status," said political scientist John Aldrich of Duke University. "(The

gap) is almost all class and educational background."

The Observer reviewed data for 82 of the state's 100 counties. Nowhere did the black participation rate top that of whites.

Experts cite several reasons for the voting gap, including historical discrimination, the number of black men in prison or on parole, and feelings among black residents they have little at stake in an election.

"If for years you've been told

See Voting on A7

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Experiment in Self-Reliance Holds IDA Graduation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Some 15 graduates of Forsyth County's Individual Development Account (IDA) program were honored last night at the YWCA. Managers from the Experiment in Self-Reliance (ESR) conducted the graduation, which was the culmination of a series of financial management classes.

While the participants attend sessions, they are also required to save toward home ownership, small business start-up or a higher education

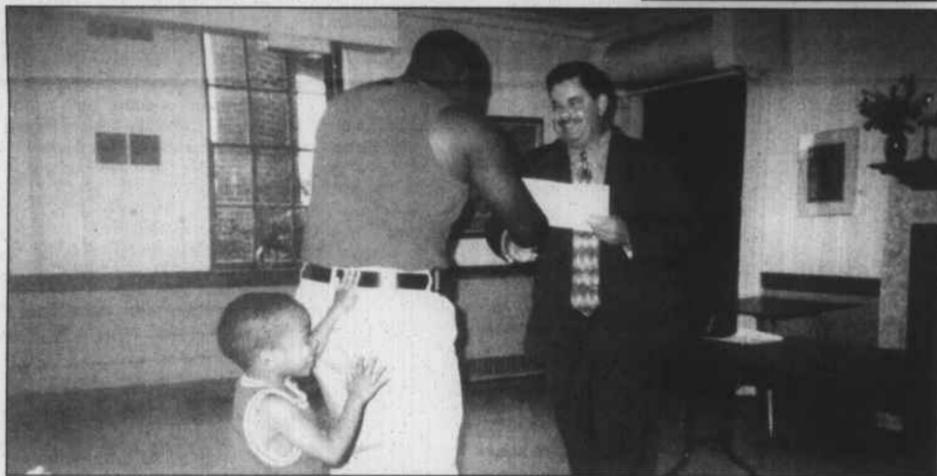
degree. Once participants have saved \$1,000, they become eligible for matching funds from 2-to-1 up to 6-to-1, all of which is applied to their goal.

Along with ESR, which administers the program, the other lead agency is the Forsyth County Housing Department, which assists the graduates whose goal is home ownership. Various other government and non-profit agencies, including the Department of Social Services, also participate in the consortium that collaborates

to make the IDA program successful in Forsyth County.

Bank of America participates in IDA by managing savings accounts for the participants to deposit their savings into. Numerous other banks in the community also support the program by providing loans for home ownership.

For more information about the IDA program, please contact Danny Haire at ESR at 722-9400, or Dan Cornelis at County Housing at 727-2840.



Danny Haire, Program Director at ESR, presents a graduation certificate to an IDA graduate.

A&T career counselor wins services award

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — Carolyn R. Mark, the job developer/counselor in the Office of Career Services at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, received the Furney K. James Outstanding Services Award at the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers (NCACE) Conference in Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

Mark has been a member of NCACE since 1992. At the last conference,

she was elected secretary for a two year term. She has held several positions within the organization including co-chair of the annual conference program committee; co-chair and editor of the NCACE Newsletter; co-chair of NCACE membership; member of NCACE Nominating Committee; and member of the executive board.

The NCACE Outstanding Service Award recognizes outstanding services

rendered to NCACE by a member or former member of the association.

The award is given to individuals who have made a significant contribution to NCACE through participation on committees or programs or attendance at NCACE functions. The person has demonstrated leadership in NCACE for a significant number of years; or developed a new program or concept with a positive

impact on the association. The purpose of NCACE is to bring together all facets of the business, industrial, government and postsecondary level educational communities operating within the state of North Carolina that are involved in career services, employment and utilization of personnel for the ultimate goal of promoting and developing cooperation between members; and to develop a high degree of professionalism in the field of career services;

The organization promotes research and exchange of information needed to continually develop the practices and procedures used in career services; and extends assistance to the membership in the development of professional recruiting practice and policies.

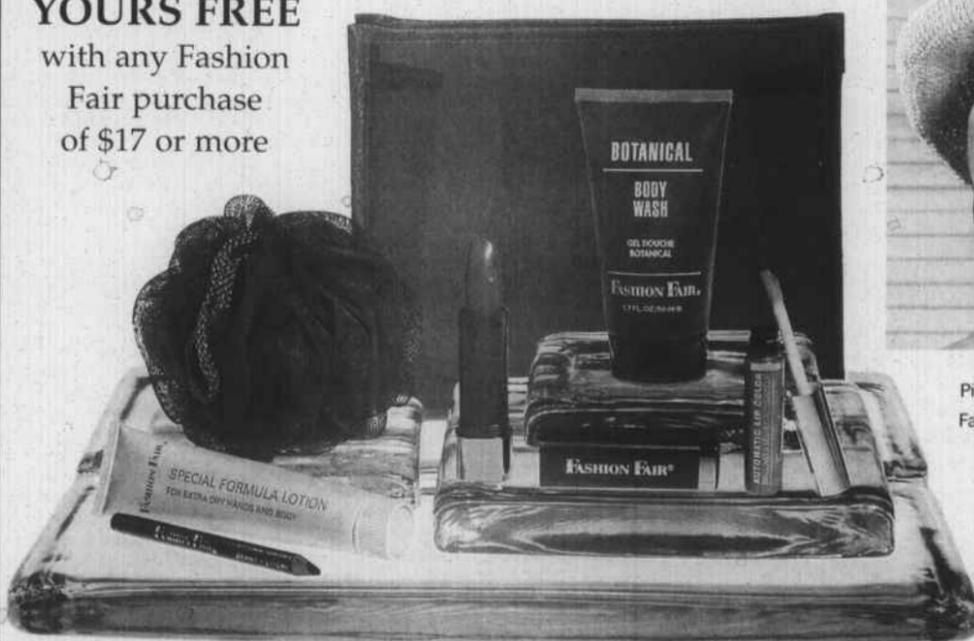


Mark

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