



Shawan Gabriel poses with members of his Leadership Team, including Program and Membership Director Jolyn Roberts (at Gabriel's left); Mentoring Services Director Daisy Rodriguez (at his right) and Teen Program Director Spencer McCall, standing, far left.

**Gabriel**

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facility to learn more about the vision behind the Y's inception. The Y's history is steeped in community involvement, Gabriel learned. Its a fervor he hopes to recapture.

"The branch is headed in a direction ... where, I think, it was intended to be when it first opened," he said. "We're going to continue in that rich tradition."

Gabriel is the first executive director of Winston Lake to preside over both the Y itself and Community Outreach Services (COS), which is now formally housed at Winston Lake. Also a YMCA of Northwest North Carolina agency, COS operates adult literacy, family mentoring and after-school assistance programs.

The addition to COS gives the Winston Lake branch the opportunity to touch many more lives with numerous additional services, Gabriel believes.

"This gives us that holistic

approach to truly provide a well-rounded view of what a kid needs," Gabriel said. "We want them to use this facility as a resource."

Young leadership is becoming a pattern at the Winston Lake Y. Gabriel's predecessor was Jarrod Covington, who was in his late 20s when he came to the Y less than two years ago. Covington left in the summer to serve as executive director of two Y branches in Memphis, Tenn.

Winston Lake Y Board Member Vernon McHam says the branch has held up despite the fact that it has been without an executive director for several months. The leadership structure at the branch has also been tweaked. Staff members now report to one of several directors on site, instead of reporting to the executive director directly, as they had in the past. The new system frees Gabriel up to do more work within the community, according to McHam.

"Shawan's major responsibility is to get out there

and sell, sell, sell the Winston Lake YMCA," said McHam, who believes that Gabriel's energy and life-long affiliation with the YMCA will help him encourage more and more local people to take advantage of the Winston Lake facilities and its droves of services for people of all ages.

Gabriel has spent most of his professional career with the Y in some capacity. Most recently, he served as executive director of COS.

"This was a great career move for me," stated the father of two. "It puts me in position to do the two things I want to do most in life: provide for my family and serve my community."

With scarcely a month on the job, Gabriel is already making changes, focusing specifically on staff development, fiscal responsibility and enhancing the Y's presence in the greater community.

Getting things to his liking has required some long days at the office, but

Gabriel says he doesn't mind.

"It feels good," he remarked. "Everyday, I see strides that we're making. I leave here everyday feeling good about something."

For more information about the Winston Lake Family YMCA's programs and services, call 336-724-9205 or go to [winston-lake.ymcawnc.org](http://winston-lake.ymcawnc.org).

**Nominees sought for Human Rights Medal from A&T**

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University currently seeking nominations for its Human Rights Medal. The award recognizes individuals who have endeavored to correct social injustice and have notably contributed to the betterment of the world.

The award was established by A&T Chancellor Emeritus James C. Renick to honor individuals whose courageous acts

a reflection of the extraordinary action against social injustices that was demonstrated on Feb. 1, 1960, by four A&T freshmen - Ezell Blair Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin E. McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and David Richmond Jr.



The A&T (or Greensboro) Four. Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and David Richmond Jr.


The winner will be notified in December and invited to accept the award at the Sit-In Breakfast marking the 49th anniversary of the Greensboro Sit-In Movement, Friday, Jan. 30, 2009.

The Human Rights Medal is presented to an individual who has had a positive impact on correcting social injustices and on humanitarian activities. Any outstanding individual who has had a positive impact on humanity is eligible to receive this award.

Anyone may nominate. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7. Forward all entries and/or questions to the Committee for Awards, Honorary Degrees, Fall Convocation and Honors Day, c/o Office of the Chancellor, 1601 East Market St., Greensboro, NC 27411

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