

HONORING EXCELLENCE

Submitted Photo

The Beta Lambda Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. honored these distinguished and retired educators at its most recent *Unsung Heroes Excellence in Education* ceremony. From left are Alease Cary, Susie Nance, Delores Lassiter, Rosetta Gore, Martha Holmes, Dr. Manderline Seales, Angelene Hampton and Norma Guthrie.



Photos by Todd Luck

Members of the NCCU Alumni Association pose with Kimberley Park's staff last Thursday.

Eagles
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years in a row. "Typically when you think about children that are children of color and children that are of low socioeconomic status, normally attached to that is students who are risk of not succeeding," said Baker, who is in her third year at Kimberley Park. "In this building, that is not so."

Calling himself the "hype man," NCCU Alumnus Chris Martin took on the task of getting the kids pumped up about reading. He led the students in a pep rally-style chant of "scholars make dollars."

Martin, an academic advisor at Forsyth Technical Community College, gives similar energetic presentations at Hill Middle School, where he mentors as part of a program sponsored by a local chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity. He said youth too often think of rappers and ball players making dollars and need to be reminded that education pays as well.

Martin pointed to the well-dressed NCCU alumni that sat near the students as examples of what they can be if they get an education.

"You're born with a blank brain and you have to put something in that brain," said Martin. "...The best way we've found to make you smart is by reading."

The NCCU alumni came bearing gifts. Baker received a poster signed by members of NCCU Women's Basketball Team and a ball signed by the university's Men's Basketball Team. Fourth grade teachers and Assistant Principal Janet Taylor, who is currently pursuing her masters at NCCU, received NCCU pennants and miniature eagle statues. Students also received

NCCU-related trinkets and were treated to donuts and fruit punch.

School was cancelled for most of the previous week due to inclement weather, delaying the kick-off ceremony. Still, five students took the initiative to read enough books to score four points before the kick-off, meaning they read at least 301 pages each. Each of those students were entered into a drawing for a large gift basket from the NCCU alumni. Makayla Terry, 9, won the prize, while the runner-ups received water bottles and a small cash gift.

Makayla said she enjoys reading and liked the idea of the contest.

"It's fun, and you get to read and get educated," she



Student Makayla Terry won a gift basket last week.

said. The top reading school in the contest will receive \$3,000 and will be recognized at the Tournament. The second-place school will receive \$1,000, while \$500 will go to the third-place school. Each student who participates in the program will receive a book-mark and a ticket voucher to the 2011 MEAC Tournament. The top eight readers at the winning

school will be invited to act as ball boys/girls during the tournament.

The NCCU alumni are sweetening the pot for Kimberley Park Eagles by offering additional incentives such as weekly prizes for the top reader and a book for each student. NCCU Alumni Association Regional Vice-President Sam Cooper said the NCCU Eagles are looking forward

to the new partnership and will be making regular return visits to see how high their fellow Eagles are soaring.

"It's very rewarding to learn that you can step out to help young people, especially in a community where they have disadvantages," said Cooper. "We're glad to step forward at the University and help these kids be successful."



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