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Seniors
shine at last
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to dance
for a
good cause**

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**County's
first black
firemen
honored**

Carolina Room
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600 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
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THE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, February 24, 2011

Atkins students certified as CNAs

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Seven students from Atkins Academic and Technology High School came one step closer to realizing their dreams of having careers in the medical profession this month when they earned their CNA (certified nursing assistant) certification from the state. The students are the first group from the school to do so.

"I think it's really good for kids to begin working on adult credentials wherever they're going in life," said Joe Childers, a longtime administrator who will serve as principal of Atkins next year. "A lot of them have aspirations higher than that, but (having a CNA license) makes you more competitive if you want to go further in nursing or even if you want to go into pre-med."

The students, all upper-classmen in the school's Allied Health II class, volunteered to take the exam on Feb. 5 to receive their certification. The certification is



Atkins student Louis Williams practices taking temperature on a mannequin in the school's Medical Lab.

now required by many technical colleges and universities for entry into medical programs, said Linda Coleson, RN, who teaches the Allied Health II class.

Of the eight who took the exam, seven passed both sections of the exam, and one passed one of the two sections.

"I was very proud of all

my kids," said Coleson. "This is something that can help their career so they were able to see how important it was and also I think it showed them, 'I can do

this.'

The course includes performing health assessments on realistic mannequins in the school's medical lab and

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Chancellor Reaves

Several locals earn kudos for good deeds

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Two Winston-Salem State University administrators will receive top honors next month at The Chronicle's 26th Annual Community Service Awards.

Chancellor Donald Reaves will take home the Man of the Year honor, while Michelle Cook, WSSU's vice chancellor for University Advancement, will be feted as Woman of the Year.

Reaves, who became WSSU's chancellor in 2007, is being honored for expertly guiding the university through a period of budgetary strain and great change. Cook is being cited not only for her work at WSSU, but also at the trailblazing Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, which she helped to found.

More than a dozen honors in all will be presented at the March 19 awards ceremony in the Grand Pavilion of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

Community Service Awards will go to Butch Wheeler, who volunteers his time, talents and culinary skills with a number of nonprofits and causes; Cheryl Lindsay, a Hanesbrands executive who is active in a long list of local organizations; Pastor Barry Washington, whose Whole Man Ministries has been credited with transforming lives; and St. Paul United Methodist Church Food Pantry, which has been serving an ever-increasing



Cook

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Black philanthropic group continues giving spree



Black Philanthropy Fund grantee agency reps (from left) Jesus Orozco, Rev. Joseph Nance, Marcy Sheets, Jamie Ledbetter, Sabrina Slade, Krisna Walker and Carla Farmer.

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Five local organizations will soon be expanding their reach within the community after receiving grants from the Black Philanthropy Fund.

Exchange/SCAN, Family Services Inc.-Head Start, Flat Rock Middle School PTSA, the Josh Howard Foundation and the Ministers Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity all received grants from the Fund under its parenting theme.

The grants, which range from \$3,500-\$5,000, were announced last week during a presentation at the Exchange/SCAN building on Northwest Boulevard.

"I joined the Fund three years ago and I have to admit this is one of the most exciting things we do at the Fund," said Michael Clements, vice



Clements

Friends, colleagues pay tribute to McPherson

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Friends, former colleagues and family members gathered at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University last week to pay homage to Dr. Dolly McPherson, who made history as the prestigious university's first African American female professor. McPherson, a native of New Orleans, La., passed away Jan. 19, in the Concord Nursing Home of Brooklyn, N.Y.

"This is where Dolly worked and lived and loved," said Lillie Webb McPherson of Roosevelt, N.Y., the late professor's sister-in-law and close friend. "She loved Wake Forest and I'm grateful that she had a chance to spend some of her best days here."

Though she was known for her courage and audacity, McPherson, who served on the WFU faculty from 1974-2001, was most admired for her altruistic nature and vivacity.

"The pages of history will tell us that



Dolly McPherson was a pioneer and that she blazed trails of race and gender here on this campus... but this morning, I wish to think really of Dolly McPherson not as a historic symbol, but as a lively and vibrant woman who brought learning and good cheer wherever she went," said Dr. Ed Wilson, provost emeritus. "She was always the frank and independent and delightful

companion whom we loved to be with. She lived her life with goodwill and with grace, and for that will will always be thankful."

Former WFU Professor Dr. Willie Pearson said McPherson inspired her fellow faculty members to reach for greater heights and encouraged them when they felt defeated.

"More than anything, she was compassionate, even when we didn't always deserve it," he remarked. "She provided a safe place when our burden was unbearable."

McPherson's zest for life was almost legendary among her colleagues and friends.

"The sound I most associated with Dr. McPherson was laughter," said Professor of English Gillian Overing, who recounted a tale of a time when she and McPherson took Overing's new car for a literal "spin" around a deserted campus parking lot during summer break.

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WFU Photo

Dr. McPherson takes part in a Wake Forest ceremony during her long tenure at the school.

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