



Scholarship winners pose with NAACP leaders.

Submitted Photo

NAACP scholarships and honors presented

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Bright students and community pillars were the stars of the Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP's 2014 Freedom Fund Banquet. The annual event drew a healthy crowd to Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the evening of Friday, April 25.

The church's pastor, Dr. Serenus T Churn Sr., welcomed the crowd, while greetings were brought by Mayor Pro Tempore Dr. Vivian H Burke. WXII 12 News Anchor Wanda Starke delivered the keynote address, elucidat-

ing on the national NAACP's theme, "Forward Together, Not One Step Back."

The following 12 high school students were presented with college scholarships: Alexis Rose Acree, Reynolds; Timothy Jordan Behnke, East Forsyth; Samassa K Boko, Mt. Tabor; Aja Lauren Grant, Reagan; Tinesha Lasha Johnson, Parkland; Herbert Breshaun Liles, Carver; Jihoon Lim, Mt. Tabor; Shannon Wayne Patterson, Mt. Tabor; Barbara Ashley Robinson, W-S Prep; Brandon

Matthew Rogers, Atkins; and Steve Doral Stowe II, North Forsyth.

Doris Herrell (chair), Rev. Dr. Marcus Barr and Mosé Delaine Belton are the members of the branch's Scholarship Committee.

Community service awards were presented to legend gospel deejay Anita "Boss Lady" Dean-Arnette and longtime mentor and anti-violence advocate Ben Piggott. Barr, who is also the branch's youth and college advisor and ACT-SO director, received the President's Award for all

the work he did to make the Freedom Fund Banquet a success.

Attorney S. Wayne Patterson is the president of the Winston-Salem Branch.

Retail

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income. The campaign seeks to demonstrate that not all of these jobs are behind a cash register.

"Retail is extremely vibrant in North Carolina, and we are fortunate to have several of the retailers we are profiling serve as leaders and respected executives on our Board of Directors," Ellen said. "Companies like Ashworth's, Family Dollar and Food Lion proudly serve their communities in ways the public may not even recognize, and we want to help tell their amazing stories. We are excited to be a part of the NRF's campaign and to add North Carolina's voice to This is Retail."

NRF chose North Carolina as the pilot partner of its "Retail Across America" initiative



Allen

because the industry is the state's largest private employer, with more than 60 retail brands having headquarters or distribution center locations across the state. Additionally, 30 of North Carolina's top employers are retailers.

For more information about the national This Is Retail campaign and Retail Across America, visit www.thisisretail.org.

Schools

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disrupting the learning environment for all. You have to have a balance."

Dr. Gwendolyn Johnson-Green, director of Alternative Education, said solving the problem is anything but simple.

"That's an ongoing issue in education," she said. "...There are so many variables all over the county that influence those reports in that there's no one thing (to blame)."

Lamaya Williams, a marketing consultant for Communities in Schools, says she believes the services offered through CIS and other agencies that provide mentoring and academic support are contributing to the decline in long term suspensions and expulsions.

"What they were doing was one-on-one mentoring to help those kids stay in school," the mother of three said of CIS. "...I was really impressed with that and the fact that they were able to have such success in such a short period of time."

Montague-Davis agreed that relationships are an important piece of the puzzle.

"To me, the most important things that make a difference in a kid's behavior is the kid building a relationship with someone," she said. "If they feel they have a relationship with someone in that building, you will see a difference in that child ...



Lamaya Williams with her sons Ira III, 6 and Issa, almost 2.

Photo by Layla Garris

because they feel they have an advocate, they have a voice."

Johnson-Green said the data bears out a trend the school system has been cultivating for years, through a variety of individualized programs that are designed to meet the unique needs of each student. Alternative learning programs are now available at every middle and high school in the county, offering opportunities for students to continue their academics in an in-house learning environment after having been removed from the traditional classroom setting due to behavioral issues.

"It is not punitive," said Johnson-Green, who also serves as president of the NC Association of Alternative Educators (NCAAE) Board of Directors. "...We support behavior modification while we continue the aca-

demics." Howard Venable, the founder of Silver Lining Youth Services and a long-time advocate of at-risk youth, says he has seen some changes in the schools he visits and is cautiously optimistic about trends being touted by the district.

"Now, you have individuals taking a more direct approach and talking to kids, trying to figure out what makes them tick," he said. "Prior to that, they were taking a more hands-off approach. Now they're becoming more hands on."

As a mother of African American children in the school district, Williams said she has been concerned about the disparities in suspension and expulsion rates for some time, and she is heartened to learn that the local officials are taking action on the issue.

"I definitely think it's a good sign," she said of the decline in suspension and expulsion rates systemwide. "I definitely think the more you can keep a kid in school, the better."



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DONALD R. BUIE FOR DISTRICT COURT

Family:

- Married 30 years to Becky Jo Peterson-Buie,
- One child - Lauren N. Buie(21)

Education:

- North Carolina Central University School of Law, J.D., 1981
- Elon College, B.A., 1978
- Wingate College, A.A., 1976

Paid for by Barbara Hayes

WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR DONALD R. BUIE

I filed as a candidate for District Court Judge because I have 30 years of experience practicing civil and criminal law in North Carolina. I served as a District Court Arbitrator for twelve years rendering fair and impartial decisions in cases appealed from Small Claims Court and selected District Court civil cases. I have practiced in every area of the law that is heard in District Court. I have seventeen years experience practicing with medium and small sized law firms. For the past thirteen years I have successfully run a sole law practice. I have a strong work ethic gained from starting work at an early age in rural North Carolina. I have many years of volunteer experience in Guilford and Forsyth Counties. I strongly believe in the democratic process and served as a Chief Election Judge in Guilford County for the past ten years. I believe the citizens of Guilford County deserve and need a judge that is experienced, knowledgeable of the law, and has common sense, in order that decisions rendered will be fair and impartial. Your consideration and support would be greatly appreciated.

Admissions and Memberships

- Admitted to the practice of law in North Carolina in 1981
- Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina
- Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals
- American Association of Justice
- North Carolina Advocates for Justice
- North Carolina Bar Association
- National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys
- National Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Bivouac Lodge No. 503-Prince Hall
- Sethos Temple No. 170-PHA