

**BriAna** Garlington



Lyric Byrd-King



Mariah Rowdy



India Johnson



Kristina Redd



Nicole Lash





Maya Alexander



Erica Field





Aysha' Polite



Makaiala Sitton

## Delta Sigma Theta scholarship gala to feature 13 girls



Elizabeth Leftwich

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. will host the 2015 Miss Jabberwock Scholarship Gala on Sunday, May 31, on the campus of Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) in the McNeil

Miss Jabberwock 2015 will be crowned and scholarships will be awarded to the participants. This year 13 junior and senior high school girls are competing for the coveted title of Miss Jabberwock.

The contestants have participated in a number of activities since January. These have included a "Flawless Event," featuring African-American female business owners; movie nights; church services; community service

projects; and a focus on financial planning and literacy.

In addition, the contestants and their escorts have been practicing dance routines and a formal dance, which will be featured at the gala.

The theme of this year's gala is "RISE." The theme embodies the idea of young ladies being able to rise above the negativity and stereotypes of their generation. The theme looks to the future of these young ladies, who have aspirations to RISE in field of nursing, broadcast, medicine, business and education. In a season where young African-Americans have been portrayed and labeled as "thugs" and unfocused, these young ladies will RISE to the occasion and represent their generation as they prepare

to attend colleges and universities throughout the country. The 2015 Jabberwock contestants are: BriAna

Garlington, Lyric Byrd-King, Mariah Rowdy, India Johnson, Kristina Redd, Nicole Lash, Keaira Stevens, Maya Alexander, Erica Field, Erica Alexander, Aysha' Polite, Makaiala Sitton, and Elizabeth Leftwich.

The pageant is open to junior and senior high school girls. This year, senior contestants will be attending WSSU, East Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of Alabama, North Carolina Central University, Converse College and Appalachian State University, just to name a few. The monies raised in the Jabberwock will assist with tuition, books and related academic costs.

Elizabeth Newton is president of the W-S Alumnae Chapter. Judge Denise S. Hartsfield is Jabberwock chairwoman.

## DCCC celebrates more than 1,500 graduates at 52nd commencement

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

THOMASVILLE - More than 1,500 graduates completed degrees and certifications as Davidson County Community College hosted its 52nd Commencement ceremony on May 16 at the Davidson Campus.

At this year's graduation, DCCC awarded a total of 2,384 credentials, including 643 associate degrees, 228 diplomas and 1,513 certificates.

Guest speaker Dr. Suzanne Walsh, a community college graduate herself who is now a deputy director of postsecondary education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, addressed the crowd of graduates and guests, offering congratulations and challenging them to continue reaching for their goals.

"I am very proud of our graduates who have worked hard, many overcoming obstacles, to finish the work they started when they ensolled at DCCC. As we celebrate commencement and come to the close of this academic year, I'm also thankful to work among a faculty and staff that provided the supportive environment for students to achieve," said Dr. Mary Rittling, DCCC president. "I hope our graduates will carry Dr. Walsh's words of encouragement on with them throughout their academic studies, as they enter the workforce and as they go on to make a difference in our community and the world."

The Commencement ceremony also recognized one of this year's outstanding graduates, Mitchell Cleary, an Associate of Arts graduate from Lexington, as the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. This state-level award celebrates the academic achievements of students in

North Carolina Community Colleges Cleary, who graduated from DCCC with a 4.0 GPA, was a standout participant in the college's Scholars of Global Distinction program. He traveled to Peru in the summer of 2014 as part of a study abroad service-learning

experience sponsored by the college.

Cleary also has a unique ability and passion for foreign languages. He aspires to pursue a career in linguistics and work as an international diplomat, and was recently awarded a Critical Language Scholarship by the U.S. Department of State. This summer, he will travel to Tangier, Morocco, for Arabic language study and cultural immersion before enrolling at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall.

Founded in 1963, Davidson County Community College is noted for its quality educational programs and services. As one of 58 institutions within the North Carolina Community College System, DCCC offers studies in more than 50-degree programs. A fully accredited, multi-campus college, DCCC celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013.

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For further information about the program and online enrollment please refer to the website: www.wssu.edu/ncmsen and select Summer Scholars or call 336-750-2995.