



BriAna Garlington



Mariah Rowdy



Kristina Redd



Keaira Stevens



Lyric Byrd-King



India Johnson

Erica Fields crowned Miss Jabberwock 2015



Nicole Lash



Maya Alexander



Erica Alexander



Makaiala Sitton

Editor's note: Due to a submission error, the names on the photos of the contestants were wrong in last week's Chronicle. They are correct here.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Erica Fields, a senior at Robert B. Glen High School, was crowned Miss Jabberwock 2015 at the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s Jabberwock Cotillion.

The RISE event was held at the McNeil Ballroom on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, with more than 300 parents, relatives, Deltas and friends in attendance.

With decorations of wire dolls dressed in a variety of white gowns, red and white roses, and portraits of each contestant, 13 high school girls and their escorts culminated the evening with the crowning of Miss Jabberwock and her court. Erica Fields will attend UNC-Greensboro in the fall, and plans to major



Erica Fields



Aysha Williams Polite



Elizabeth Leftwich

in nursing.

Caroline Elizabeth Leftwich was first runner-up to Miss Jabberwock 2015. She is a senior at Regan High School and will attend the University of Alabama in the fall. Aysha Williams Polite was the second runner-up to Miss Jabberwock 2015. She is a senior at East Forsyth High School and

will attend UNC-Charlotte in the fall.

The contestants were featured in a dance choreographed by Courtney Taylor-Porter, owner of Positive Image Performing Arts LLC dance studio. The song used was a remix of Beyonce Knoll's "Flawless and Ego."

The escorts were fea-

ured in a choreographed dance arranged by Taylor, to the hit Boyz to Men. Contestants Fields, and

Erica Alexander danced to Kirk Franklin's "Don't Cry" in the talent showcase.

India Johnson, Mariah Rowdy, Makaiala Sitton and Lyric King also performed in the talent showcase. Lyric King was the only junior in the competition. She will be a senior at Atkins High School in the fall.

A formal dance to Yolanda Adam's "And Still I Rise" featured escorts with tuxedos with red accessories, and contestants in white gowns.

Each contestant received a five-piece Samsonite Luggage set, a

gift bag and a professional portrait in their white ballroom gowns. Monetary scholarships will be sent to the college or university of their acceptance in the fall from monies raised from the scholarship fundraiser.

Delta officials say RISE was a special event in the lives of 26 deserving young people in our community.

Elizabeth Newton is the president of the Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. Judge Denise Hartsfield is the 2015 Jabberwock chairwoman.

DCCC joins NSF grant initiative to increase number of minorities seeking degrees in STEM areas

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

THOMASVILLE - Davidson County Community College (DCCC), along with Central Piedmont and Guilford Technical community colleges, are recipients of a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop programs designed to boost the number of underrepresented minority students pursuing four-year degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subject areas. CPCC leads the project for the North Carolina STEM Alliance.

Strategies to create stronger pipelines in high schools to earlier identify students interested in STEM majors and careers are in development by the three community colleges. The goal of the grant initiative is to increase by 50 percent the number of underrepresented minority students earning bachelor's degrees through both transferable STEM-related community college programs and entry into STEM majors at four-year colleges and universities.

The grant period runs through January 2018.

"This is a great opportunity for minority students at DCCC who are interested in the STEM areas," says Jennifer Comer, instructional liaison faculty at DCCC and co-principal investigator for the initiative. "The initiative involves all aspects of the

campus community working toward the common goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minority students enrolling in STEM curriculum areas. In addition, we'll work closely with outside agencies to offer ways for minority students to explore STEM careers and allow them to have opportunities to grow as they continue their educational journeys at baccalaureate granting institutions and enter these fields."

Measures the grant will fund include STEM-focused mentoring, additional academic support, career-centered and proactive academic advising and financial support.

Bruce Johnson, associate dean of STEM at Central Piedmont who provides overall leadership for the effort, notes the three colleges included in the North Carolina STEM Alliance serve as leaders in refining the ways community colleges serve students.

"Through other initiatives, we have moved the needle relative to the improved progress and success of our students,"

Johnson says. "However, as each college maintains a commitment toward making data-driven decisions, it's apparent that a significant gap exists for our underrepresented minority student population."

"This NSF-funded initiative positions us to expand the impact of existing successful projects, while further promoting growth to students needing enhanced support," Johnson adds. "The skills gap seen in our region demands more college graduates in STEM-related fields. Ultimately, our communities will benefit as we improve the ability of our students to contribute to advances in the STEM arena."

The National Science Foundation funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the United States.

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