

# Aim for the stars and you'll reach them says Clayton at Honors Convocation

By Melanie Harrington

"I'm small in stature but I'm big in spirit," declared Xerona Clayton during the Honors Convocation held April 15, in Moore Hall Auditorium.

Clayton, keynote speaker for the event, addressed most of her comments to the dozens of students who received honors and accolades for academic accomplishments at ECSU.

"In order to succeed you have to have inspiration, motivation, preparation and perspiration," said Clayton, Vice President for Urban Affairs of Turner Broadcasting System. "That's the formula for success. Obviously those of you who are honored today have all of these qualities."

Clayton advised her listeners that one needs three kinds of power in order to succeed.

"The first of these is shielding," she said. "You have to get rid of negative attitudes. You know attitudes are like a radio. You can turn it down when somebody gives you something ugly, something deadly and damaging, just tune it out. Ugly, negative thoughts can take shape in different forms, especially gossip."

To illustrate this point, Clayton told a story about a young woman in her college who was the victim of an unfounded rumor that she was pregnant.

"The rumor grew until she couldn't handle the pressure anymore and she committed suicide. I will never forget that. That's the ultimate price of ugly gossip. Ugly news travels fast."

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**Xerona Clayton**

Clayton said even a person's friends can get jealous of someone who is doing well.

"Don't ever let people's negative emotions thwart your efforts. You need a buffer agent against those forces which want to keep you from doing what will be rewarding to you. You need to shield yourself from those who want to fill your head with garbage."

The second power, said Clayton, is "fielding," which means students need to field opportunities available to them.

"Keep an open mind, a clear heart, and a pure soul," she said. "There are so many opportunities for people who are prepared. Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way."

The third step to power is "wielding," said Clayton, adding "that means using your energy and power wisely and diligently."

"When you pull yourself up from average you're doing for yourself rather than having someone doing it for you," she



said.

Clayton advised female students to "Depend on yourself, not on a guy. If you need to get your clothes out of the cleaners, don't depend on some man to do it. Get some brains in your head and get your own clothes out of the cleaners, then strut down the street with independence. You have the power to be your own person."

Clayton praised the student honorees, for being above average and special. "You are the classes, not the masses," she said.

Clayton closed by telling the honored students to keep on working hard and to use their power wisely.

"Aim for what you wish and keep in mind that your attitude determines your altitude. You're not going higher than you aspire. If you aim for nothing, you'll get it."

"You have done something here that sets you apart, but don't let it go to your head and don't stop. Keep on working hard. Then you'll have the real power."

Clayton serves as liaison between the Corporation, (TBS SuperStation, TNT, Atlanta Braves, CNN, Atlanta Hawks, and Headlines News), civic groups in Atlanta and across the country. Her responsibilities include monitoring of corporate philanthropic contributions, developing and maintaining communication groups and enhancing the corporate image in communities around the nation where Turner Broadcasting has operations. She also develops programs to highlight employee accomplishments and profile employees' career positions in publications. Clayton is one of the highest ranking female employees in Turner Broadcasting System.

Following Clayton's speech, awards were presented by Dr. Carol Jones, Director of the Honors Program, Dr. Floyd Robinson, Chairman Emeritus of the Honors Council, and Miss Rosine L. Sanders, a junior in the Honors Program.

Dr. Helen Caldwell, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presided at the Convocation. In welcoming the ECSU family to the program, Caldwell said, "It is a privilege and a joy to honor these students, who help make us the rising star in Northeastern North Carolina."

ECSU's Honor Convocation is held to honor academic achievement and excellence of students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above and who have earned at least 24 hours of credit at ECSU. The annual Honors Convocation at ECSU is sponsored by the University's Honors Program and coordinated by Dr. Carol C. Jones, the program director.

## Masters degrees education now available by extension from ECU at ECSU's Grad Center

By Miracle Perry

Graduating ECSU seniors who want to get their master's degree—and other area residents with a similar purpose in mind—no longer have to travel a long way to get an advanced degree.

What they are seeking may be right here in Elizabeth City.

ECSU offers masters degrees in education by extension from East Carolina University in Greenville.

The Greenville campus offers masters degrees in elementary education, middle grade Education, and most recently special Education.

All of the courses from each degree can be taken at ECSU's Kermit E. White Graduate center, according to Dr. Dan Pearce, director of the graduate center, and an Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

"ECSU provides the facilities for the courses," said Pearce. Instructors are provided by participating campuses, Pearce added, with instructors traveling from ECU to the ECSU campus.

Dr. Louis Green, a professor in ECSU's Education Department, teaches in the special education program, said Pearce.

Green also serves as coordinator academic advisor for students participating in the program. More instructors from the ECSU campus will be appointed to the graduate programs by ECSU's Dr. Helen Caldwell, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Pearce said.

The Masters of Education-Special Education Program is "a resident program designed to provide advanced professional study in special education for teachers. Active teachers and prospective teachers interested in expanding career opportunities or perhaps pursuing another area of teaching are encouraged to apply for admission," according to Green. A student may take all of the necessary coursework required for a Master's degree in special education (mental retardation and learning disabilities) at Elizabeth City State University, through East Carolina University.

The admission requirements for the special education degree are: a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution along with a 3.0 GPA in the upper division (jr-sr courses taken as an undergraduate). The student must have a 2.5 overall undergraduate studies GPA. Applicants must also complete a gradu-

ate school application form, pay an admissions fee and meet a minimum score on the Graduate Record Exam. Other requirements include three letters of recommendation from an employer or the applicants undergraduate program. This program can be successfully completed in 2 years.

To be accepted into the elementary education graduate degree program, students must demonstrate professional experience and competency. The program helps students meet competencies in learning processes, curriculum, research and content areas of the elementary curriculum, Pearce said. The program requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of approved graduate study.

Many area teachers have received their graduate degree through the extension plan at ECSU.

"The ECU graduate program at Elizabeth City State University helped me save road time and mileage," said Janet Cooper, a third grade teacher at Central School who received her degree in early childhood education through the program. "The program also saved me from having to drive all the way to Greenville after working all day with students,"

Cooper added.

Yvonne Walton, a fourth grade teacher at Pasquotank Elementary, also completed the program with a master's in middle grades education. She, too, praised the program, pointing out that it saved her much time and trouble.

The Middle Grades (6-9) degree can be completed in two years with a minimum of 36 semester hours and admission to the graduate school. This degree offers concentrations in English, language arts, math, reading, science and social science.

For all of ECU's graduate programs, the cost for instate students is \$260 for 9 hours or more, \$195 for 6-8 hours, \$130 for 3-5 hours and \$65 for 0-2 hours.

Of the three programs, the special education master's degree is the "most recent," and offers unlimited employment opportunities in mental retardation and learning disabilities, according to Green.

In time, Pearce said the University hopes to extend the graduate program to include other academic areas, in addition to education.

"We would like to have programs in areas like art and communications," Pearce said.