

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

SECTION C

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## Winston Lake YMCA holds first Black Achievers Business and Industry Awards Gala

### The YMCA Black Achievers Program ... Empowering Youth and Community

"There are two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots; the other, wings."

—Hodding Carter

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The Winston Lake Family YMCA's Black Achievers Program held its first annual Black Achievers in Business and Industry Awards Gala, May 14, at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Sixteen graduating seniors in the Black Achievers Teen Program were honored; six of them received the newly-established the Mazie S. Woodruff Youth in Government Award. This award honors Teen Achievers who have demonstrated an interest in government by attending two or more YMCA Youth Legislative sessions and having a bill(s) accepted into the Youth Legislature Bill Book. The Woodruff Award winners included Paula B. Boozer, Sandra N. Marshall, of Michael L. Rainey, Sherina A. Brown, Camille F. Poe and Treyla V. Rice all of Carver High School.

Other Teen Achievers, graduating seniors who excelled in scholastic achievement, and demonstrated character, initiative, and motivation, included Pridgen J. Amos of Reynolds High School, Stuart Eaten of Carver, Lamond D. Scales of Carver, Anthony L. Warren of Mount Tabor, Jameelah M. El-Amin of Carver, Renee E. Hill of North Forsyth, Norman E. Johnson Jr. of North Forsyth, Stacie D. Murrill of North Forsyth, Brittany D. Orange, of North Forsyth and Benjamin M. Petty of Carver.

Adult achievers from surrounding companies who are making contributions in the workplace and in their communities were recognized at the awards program. They included Alvin Atkinson Sr. of Wachovia Bank; Willie A. Booker Jr. of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; James Boone of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company; Randy D. Britton of Duke Power Company; ShaRon E. Johnson of American Express Co.; John J. Lewis III of Sara Lee Hosiery; Shelley W. Malloy of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Martha March of WFU/Baptist Medical Center; Wesley Curtis Jr. of Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce; Jerrold A. Dash of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Samuel Davis of The Chronicle; Sharon Y. Dooley, of

American Express Co.; Lisa N. Moore of American Express Co.; Elaine Pitt, of THE CHRONICLE; Mark Raymond of 980 WAAA Radio; Roland R. Selby Jr. of American Express Co.; Gregory C. Hairston of Winston-Salem State University; Linda Hollingsworth of American Express Co.; Curtis James of Sara Lee Knot Products; Claudette B. Jarrett of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools; Michael L. Suggs of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Kimberly Summers-Sims of Sara Lee Hosiery.

The featured guest speaker for the evening was Davida Wagner Martin, County Attorney for Forsyth County Government. Martin, a native of Winston-Salem, is the first African American to hold this position. Craig Marberry, President of Info Video, served as the Master of Ceremony. A native of Chicago, Marberry spent nearly seven years as a reporter for WXLN News Channel 12. Gala Chairperson Barbara Hayes, formally introduced Marberry to the audience.

Martin and Marberry were honored to support the goals of the Black Achievers Program.

The central purpose of the program is to help African-American youth to develop a positive sense of self and to set high educational and career goals. The leaders of the program seek to raise the academic standards of youth; expose students to diverse career options; provide youth with role models; create channels for continuing community involvement by business and industry; and to recognize and promote excellence.

County Attorney spoke on the topic, "From Believers to Achievers." Martin began by honoring this distinguished group of young people and the YMCA for having the "foresight to identify the heart of a great need in the community."

"We are here to celebrate... I am proud to come from the same school system as these outstanding scholars," she said. However, she reminded them "To whom is given much, much will be required." She defined an achiever as one who carries out, secures, gets, attains as a result of exertion. "I know these young people have exerted great effort over the years... their achievement is a result of positive planning on someone's part."



Six Achievers seized the Mazie S. Woodruff Youth in Government Award: (Left to right) Paula B. Boozer, Camille F. Poe, Michael L. Rainey, Treyla V. Rice, Sandra N. Marshall, (not pictured) Sherina A. Brown.



Martin then turned to history to show evidence of achievement as a result of exertion of effort. She called upon the legacy of Harriet Tubman, a young enslaved girl, who was hired away to owner after owner. Though her back was scarred, her voice husky from repeated bouts with untreated illnesses, her forehead battered, she believed she could have a better life. In spite of the \$40,000 bounty on her head, she became the Conductor of the Underground Railroad, saving herself and 300 others. "We should reach back and help someone else," Martin said.

Martin called upon the basketball anomaly Muggsy Bogues, who became a "walking, talking example that it is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of

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(Left to right) Achiever ShaRon Johnson, Marcellette Orance, Executive Director; Keynote speaker Davida Wagner Martin, County Attorney; Cheryl Harry, Director Black Achievers; Craig Marberry, Master of Ceremony; and Barbara Hayes, Black Achievers Gala Chairperson greeted one another at the end of the program.



The 1998 Teen Achievers were awarded for their scholastic achievements, demonstrated character, initiative and motivation.



Some of the 1998 Adult Achievers included (left to right) ShaRon E. Johnson of American Express Company; John J. Lewis III of Sara Lee Hosiery; Martha March of WFU/Baptist Medical Center; Lisa N. Moore, American Express Company; and Elaine L. Pitt, of The Chronicle.