



Shown are (L-R) Annie Tyson Jett, Annie Howard, Thomas Hicks, Joseph Childers, Terry Howerton, Andrea Mickle Bush and Larnetra Banner-Richardson. Submitted photo

Atkins Class of 1968 and Herbalife make donations

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Atkins High School Class of 1968 has partnered with Herbalife International to aid the class' mission of supporting the school's focus and the company's mission toward community involvement.

Atkins Academic and Technology High School has as its mission to prepare all students to compete in the global marketplace. The school's vision is to promote academic excellence among all students and thus prepare them to become successful citizens in a global society.

The school was recently named a North Carolina Model Magnet School. The award was created in 2014 by the Science, Mathematics, and Technology (SMT) Center in Raleigh and was given to only 17 schools in the entire state. The school was also named a North Carolina STEM Distinguished school of Forsyth County. Its graduation rate for 2014 was above 95 percent.

Atkins has a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics based program and was chosen based on a rigorous application and recommendation process. Herbalife is a technology based company and was, therefore, very interested in the school's programs. The school, with its specialized curriculum, draws from all residential areas across the system.

Instructor Terry Howerton gave class members Thomas Hicks, Andrea Mickle Bush, Annie Sims Howard, Larnetra Banner-Richardson, along with Annie Tyson Jett, director of Human Resources for Herbalife, a guided tour of the school. The purpose of the visit and tour was to gain a better understanding of the school's areas of concentration and functions, what it thereby offers to students by their matriculation, and potential effects on their futures and careers in the society of today and tomorrow.

Students were observed in classrooms and in various areas. Learning is hands on,

collaborative and working together to problem solve. Several students had questions about Atkins High School, while expressing desires to know more about its history and alumni. Student career interests include occupations in science, engineering biology, technology, mathematics, biotechnology, medicine, nursing, and occupations focusing on problems that affect the environment and climate change.

After-school activities include art, the Alternative Fuels Club, Chess Club, Culinary Arts Club, Drill Team, Glee Club/Show Choir, Health Occupations, the Student Association, Junior Leadership, Academic Bowl, Marching Band, National Honor Society, athletics, ROTC, and more. Students participate in local, state, and national competitions.

Any student involved in these programs is automatically enrolled in the "It's My Call Program." The program is open to all students and membership requires responsible behavior in life choices and

includes random drug tests. The Class of 1968 supports the school's focus, mission, and academic goals and through class president Thomas Hicks, has worked with Herbalife to obtain a donation above \$2,000 for computers and competition shirts for the school's teams.

Atkins is very appreciative of the efforts of the class and Herbalife and grateful for their support. The class also donated school supplies after the tour.

Noted Hall of Fame athletes from the Class of 1968 were Olin Carter, Waddell Cockerham, Bernard Foster, William Gunn, Donald Jackson, Joseph Payne, Reginald Scales and James Webster.

Class officials say the class looks forward to continuing efforts and support of the students and staff in their endeavors and to aid in preparing the student population for bright, successful, and productive futures.

WSSU's Flack gains UNC system honor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Sylvia A. Flack, executive director of Winston-Salem State University's (WSSU) Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities, is one of two UNC system faculty members who recently received the 2015 James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service, given by the Board of Governors of the 17-campus University of North Carolina.

The award, named in memory of the late North Carolina governor, was established in 2007 to encourage, identify, recognize and reward distinguished public service and outreach by faculty across the 17-campus University.

Winners must demonstrate sustained, distinguished achievement in university public service

and outreach and must contribute to improving the quality of life for North Carolina citizens.

UNC President Tom Ross and board Vice Chairman Lou Bissette presented the 2015 awards, which carry a \$7,500 cash prize, recently.

"This is really exciting, really surprising," Flack said. "With Gov. Holshouser's vision and the way that he worked, I think it's really important because in my quest to eliminate health disparities in Forsyth County, I've involved everyone I can involve. I think it's important that people know how significant it is to become involved in what's going on in the community."

Flack joined the WSSU faculty in 1990 as the founding dean of the School of Health Sciences, in part to help revitalize

WSSU's nursing program. She has had a lifelong interest in helping to eliminate inequality in health



Flack

care for minorities, and has been instrumental in bringing a variety of programs to Winston-Salem and

Forsyth County to address the needs of the community.

Flack, who stepped down as dean in 2005, has led the Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities since 2006. She also has served as a special assistant to WSSU's chancellor and worked with a number of Winston-Salem nonprofit organizations to

secure funding to address health issues facing Forsyth County's minority community. Her programs have served as models for similar initiatives nationwide.

A 1968 graduate of WSSU, Flack holds a master's degree in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia and a doctorate in education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and

State University. She has written for a number of academic publications as well as created conferences throughout North Carolina.

The other recipient is Carmen Russoniello, founding director of East Carolina University's Center for Applied Psychophysiology. This is the first time in the award's history that it has been given to two winners.

Organizers seek various items for Christmas-time projects

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The 23rd annual Peace Toys for War Toys exchange program for young boys and girls will be held at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum Annex, 2825 University Parkway, on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The eighth annual Lifeline Shoebox distribution project for nursing homes and assisted living residents will be held from Sunday, Dec. 20, through Thursday, Dec. 24.

"We need safe secure donated space with climate control access for donated items received for both programs," said

organizer Ben Piggott.

All items are presented annually at Christmas time. Items such as wash cloths, lotion, Vaseline, body wash, shampoo, socks, bicycles, footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, books, puzzles, board games, baby dolls, electronic games and much more.

Sponsors are needed to assist both programs through monetary support for cash prizes, collection of products and possible marketing.

Peace Toys for War Toys and Lifeline Shoebox serves hundreds of youth and nursing home residents.

For additional information, contact Ben Piggott at 336-727-2580 or Wanda Reid at 336-546-7015.

