



Hazel Mack speaks during her retirement celebration program held at The Delta Fine Arts Center on Friday, Feb. 19. Earlier this month Mack announced she will be stepping down from her position as the regional managing attorney for Legal Aid of N.C.



Executive director of Legal Aid of N.C. George L. Hausen addresses the crowd at the retirement celebration program for Hazel Mack on Friday, Feb. 19 at The Delta Fine Arts Center.

Hazel Mack to continue working for underserved

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

After 35 years of service with Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC), Hazel Mack announced earlier this month that she will be retiring.

LANC is a statewide nonprofit that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people in order to ensure equal access to justice and to remove legal barriers to economic opportunity.

Although she is stepping down from her position as regional managing attorney, Mack said she will continue to serve the underprivileged in the community.

"I have a passion for addressing the needs of the underserved in our community," she said. "That is something I will

always do; it's a part of me."

Well before she decided to begin studying law, Mack dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. At the young age of 17 Mack, got involved in the Civil Rights Movement by joining the Winston-Salem Chapter of the Black Panther Party, which was responsible for a number of programs, such as a free breakfast program, free clothing program and a free ambulance program.

As years passed, Mack continued to find other ways to empower the community. In fall of 1996 with the help of a group of determined people in Forsyth County, Mack opened Carter G. Woodson School. As a public charter school, Carter G. Woodson adheres to basic curriculum

requirements of the state but has several advantages, such as new and innovative approaches to improve on standard education practices.

Everyone who knows Mack says that the school is her pride and joy. When asked why she decided to open a school she said, "I'm a firm believer that education is a major key to overcoming poverty."

"It's a myth that you can work yourself out of poverty, it's not possible," she continued. "Education is one of the ways that can leap you out of poverty."

During a reception honoring Mack on Friday, Feb. 19 at the Delta Fine Arts Center, many of Mack's colleagues, family members, and former clients thanked her for all that she has done over the years.

LANC Executive Director George L. Hausen said not only has Mack made a major impact on the community, she has also inspired others to do so as well.

"She has been inspiring to so many people," said Hausen. "For more than 30 years she has been incredible."

During a sit-down with The Chronicle, Mack said she will never really fully retire because she has to feed her passion for helping others. Along with working on a new business, Mack said she will continue to work with the students and faculty and Carter G. Woodson.

"I will continue to do what I believe I was put on this earth to do and that is serve the less fortunate and work to improve their quality of life."

New WSSU food pantry called 'blessing'

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University opened a food pantry for food insecure students in partnership with Food Lion on Thursday, Feb. 18.

WSSU Chancellor Elwood Robinson said that the WSSU Rams Helping Hands Pantry is part of the university's "equity minded" approach of taking students where they are and providing the resources to help them succeed.

"I think there's a misconception about college students," he said. "People think that if you have the resources to be able to go to college, you have all your basic needs met. That's simply not the case. A college campus is a microcosm of our community and so we have a cross section of people with a variety of needs when they come."

He said every college and university has students who are food insecure. According to its website, the College and University Food Bank Alliance has 271 active member institutions across the country with food pantries for food insecure students. Members in North Carolina include UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

Food Lion Feeds, the grocery chain's charitable organization, stocked the pantry's shelves full of foods like canned vegetables, rice, instant mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, applesauce and popcorn. It's part of Food



Wiggins



Dukes

Lion's longtime sponsorship of the CIAA Tournament, which is happening this week.

"It's truly a blessing to see how Food Lion has partnered up with our member institutions," CIAA Commissioner Jacie McWilliams said at the opening event.

During February of last year, Food Lion opened pantries at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, which has served 420 students, and Livingston College in Salisbury, which served 100 students. Both are private, historically black institutions that have much smaller student bodies than WSSU.

Aside from the college food pantries, Food Lion Feeds holds food drives for 30 food banks in the 10 states the grocery chain operates in.

"Right now with Food Lion, that's one of our big initiatives: to feed the hungry," said Food Lion's Rondale Ratcliffe.

While Food Lion initially stocked the pantry, and WSSU will have an opportunity to apply for it to be restocked in a year, students are looking for partnerships with other stores and eateries to keep it going all year. The pantry is a student-led initiative with 25 volunteers that have already signed up to man its day-to-day operations. Students who need the pantry's services will fill out an online form. Those who qualify based on income will make an appointment to come and pick what items they want.

"They'll be able to come in and receive five items at least twice a month," said Da'Cor Wiggins, a recent WSSU graduate who is involved with the pantry.

He said student volunteers will keep track of what's taken from the pantry and what needs to be restocked. Students who need the services more than twice a month will need to volunteer at the pantry for at least one hour to be able to use it again that month.

Asia Dukes, a junior, is on the marketing committee for the pantry. She said she discovered that food insecurity is a big issue on



CIAA Commissioner Jacie McWilliams, Miss WSSU Dontia Yavonne Barrett, WSSU Chancellor Dr. Elwood Robinson and Food Lion's Rondale Ratcliffe at the ribbon cutting for the food pantry last week.

campus as part of her internship as a food ambassador with the 10 Percent Campaign, which tries to get colleges and universities to use local foods.

"We have a lot of students that, even though they have meal plans or even though they live off

campus, any little refund check they have, they send back home or they literally live refund to refund, so buying groceries can't be a priority for them," she said.

Though residential students are required to have a campus meal plan, sometimes students can't make it

to the cafeteria during its operating hours or don't have enough meals on the plan to make it through the entire semester. Commuting and non-traditional students who face food insecurity will also be able to use the pantry.

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For more information contact the WSSU Department of Athletics (336) 750-2141