

Officials promote unity during Main Street Academy I AAM program

BY KIM UNDERWOOD
WINSTON-SALEM/FORSYTH
COUNTY SCHOOLS

"At the I AAM School and Community Fair on Monday night, March 21, assistant superintendent Carol Montague-Davis was scheduled to talk about academic data.

Instead, Montague-Davis, who is the assistant superintendent for secondary schools, spoke with passion about the importance of everyone working together.

"The schools cannot do it themselves," she said. "The parents send us the best they have. The teachers give it all every day."

It's essential that all students become the best they can be, Montague-Davis said. "We can only get that if we all work together."

I AAM is an acronym for Initiative for African-American Males, which Lakeisha Hill, the assistant principal at Main Street Academy, and others started earlier this school year after they decided that something more had to be done to close the gap in achievement between African-American boys and other groups of stu-

dents.

At an I AAM forum in October, people laid out some of the statistics, and people within the school system and from the wider community talked about ways that people are already working to improve achievement for African-American boys and about possibilities for future action.

For the School and Community Fair held at Main Street Academy, Hill and other organizers wanted to help students and their families make connections. They had invited representatives from the school system, from community agencies, and from such local colleges and universities as Appalachian State, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and N.C. A&T State University.

Principal Karen Roseboro of North Hills Elementary School, who helped organize I AAM, said that it was a way of bringing resources to families "so they don't have to go searching for themselves. ... I'm hoping that parents will be able to set some goals for their children."

As a way of introduc-



Carlson Greene greets Keith Penn, of the Winston Salem State University MSEN Pre-college program, at the Community Fair section of the I AAM program.

ing the formal program for the night, Hill showed a series of photos of students holding signs that said such things as "I AAM worthy," "I AAM capable," and "I AAM deserving."

The program itself offered a mix of performances and of speakers. Kenneth Simington, the school system's chief academic officer, had been invited to tell his personal story. As part of that, he talked about how, when he was a professor at the University of Virginia, it sometimes seemed as if people presumed that, because he was black, he was a student rather than a professor.

"People couldn't see me because of what they thought they saw," Simington said.

Among the lessons he learned from such experiences was "you have got to be sure about who you are as you go forth."

Gwen Johnson-Green, the school system's director of alternative education, was on hand to talk about some of the discipline statistics associated with black males. She doesn't believe in suspending students from school, she said. She believes in doing everything possible to keep them in school.

The performances included Reid Swann, a

Reagan High School sophomore who performs under the name "Young Reid," reciting a rap that he had written.

Coach Jimmy Wormack, who teaches physical education and coaches girls' basketball at Flat Rock Middle, was there with the Flat Rock Step Team.

Two young men from the Greater Vision Youth Dance Company School danced. Chris Turner goes to North Forsyth High School, and AJ Preston goes to Quality Education Academy. Dance instructor Wayne Jones was there with them.

Other performers

included the West African Drumming Squad at Reynolds High School, led by Colin Tribby, an assistant principal at Reynolds, and Elliot Axiom, a spoken word artist and teacher at Carter G. Woodson School who performed the poem "Invictus" by English poet William Ernest Henley.

Many of the students and adults who performed were black. That was intentional, Hill said after the program.

"I wanted them to see positive images - people that look like them doing positive things," Hill said.

The next I AAM program is scheduled for May 23,

Two take new roles with W-S/Forsyth County Schools

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dionne Jenkins is now the general counsel for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, and Andrew Kraft will serve the district as the interim director of accountability services.

Jenkins had been the interim general counsel since Jan. 1 after former general counsel Ali Tomberlin resigned on Dec. 31. Jenkins now moves into the position on a permanent basis.

She has been a staff attorney for WS/FCS since 2013. She has worked with employee and student grievances, district litigation and vendor contracts.

Jenkins is an adjunct professor for Forsyth Technical Community College and a former adjunct professor for Salem College. Previously, she was sole practitioner of a small general practice primarily in the areas of criminal and family law, and she litigated matters in District and Superior Court.

Jenkins earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree from Wake Forest University.

Kraft is replacing Dana Wrights, who will be leaving the district June 16. She will help Kraft with the transition throughout the 2016-17 school year.

Kraft has been the district's program manager for social studies since

2012. He also works as an adjunct professor at Winston-Salem State University instructing students in social studies teaching methods.

He has worked as the district's lead STEM teacher, the STEM magnet coordinator at Hanes Magnet School, and as a social studies teacher for N.C. Virtual Public Schools, WS/FCS and Stokes County Schools. He also taught at a 12-month residential therapeutic wilderness education program in Low Gap.

Kraft earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Elon University and a master of arts in liberal studies from Wake Forest University.



Jenkins



Kraft

Women's Fund hosting its first online fundraiser

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem is asking residents to use their social media networks to improve lives.

On Thursday, April 7, the non-profit organization will host the culmination of "The Fund Do Party," the first-ever technology-driven fundraiser. The Women's Fund has held. It will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Biotech Place, Wake Forest Innovation Quarter, 575 N. Patterson Ave. The community will be able to network with members while raising funds and awareness to move women beyond poverty while competing for prizes.

Since earlier in March, The Women's Fund has been keeping track of who is buying tickets, gathering donations and sharing with their friends on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The top fundraiser and person

with the top social score will receive exciting prizes. As of Tuesday evening, \$8,030 had been raised.

Tickets for the high-tech cocktail party are \$30 and include food, wine and beer, as well as entertainment. Proceeds from the event will go toward creating more education efforts in the community to help address the causes of social issues impacting women and girls in Forsyth County.

Systematic issues have been identified in The Women's Fund report, "A Second Look Through a Gender Lens: The Economic Security of Women and Girls in Forsyth County 2015." "For example, our report shows that poverty has increased since our 2010 report for women in Forsyth County," according to the fund's website.

Since 2006, The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem has been working to ensure women and girls

throughout the area have equal opportunities, skills and resources to be self-sufficient and contributing members of the community.

For more information on "The Fund Do Party" or to purchase tickets and join the online event, visit <http://funddows.well-gives.com>.



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Police probe Twitter threat to Clipper Chris Paul's wife

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Los Angeles police say they're looking into a threat made via Twitter to a family member of Los Angeles Clippers All-Star guard Chris Paul, the Associated Press reports.

Other news reports say the family member is his wife, Jada Paul. Both Chris and Jada Paul are from Winston-Salem.

The LAPD said Monday night that they are investigating the threat, but would give no further details. No one has been arrested.

Clippers' Coach Doc Rivers said before the team's game against the Boston Celtics on Monday that the organization takes all such threats seriously.

Chris Paul could not immediately be reached for comment.