

Harding parents, students demand stability

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produced 17 National Achievement Scholars — African American students who score in the top one-half percent of seniors in North Carolina — more than the rest of CMS combined.

Harding is also in transition with new leadership and

faculty. In addition to a teacher shortage, popular longtime principal Curtis Carroll left in August for Duval County (Fla.) Schools and was succeeded by Alicia Johnson, who is now out on maternity leave. Denise Atkinson, an assistant principal at Providence High

School, will take over as interim principal.

"We've got all this going on at one time," Price-Patterson says. "It looks like it's setting us up to fail, but we won't."

• Carroll, Harding's principal from 1999-2006, is coming back to CMS. Superintendent Peter

Gorman named Carroll area superintendent Tuesday, where he'll oversee underperforming schools. Carroll, who built his reputation for challenging Harding students in their academic pursuits, will report directly to Gorman.

Carroll started his CMS career in 1993 as an assistant

principal at Randolph Middle School. He was an assistant principal at West Mecklenburg High, then moved up to principal at McClintock Middle.

• Donald Fennoy was appointed principal at Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology. He previously

was assistant principal at Olympia High School in Orlando, Fla. He'll start work Dec. 4.

• Stan Frazier was named principal at E.E. Waddell High School. He previously was principal at Merry Oaks Elementary.

Climate change hits Africa

By Stephen Leahy
GLOBAL INFORMATION SERVICE

BROOKLIN, Canada, Nov. 6, 2006 — Climate change will devastate Africa unless the continent gets substantial help from the world community, according to a new report released at the opening of a major U.N. Climate Change Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday.

"Africa is the least responsible for climate change but will be hit the hardest," said Nick Nuttall, spokesperson for the United Nations Environment Program.

New scientific data shows that Africa is more vulnerable to the impacts than previously thought, Nuttall told IPS from Nairobi.

Seventy million people and 30 percent of Africa's coastal infrastructure face the risk of coastal flooding by 2080 linked to rising sea levels, the report found. More than one-third of the habitats that support African wildlife could be lost. Crop yields will fall due to warmer temperatures and more intense droughts.

By 2025, some 480 million people in Africa could be living in water-scarce or water-stressed areas.

"If Africa's weather gets any more fickle, then they are in very deep trouble," said Steve Sawyer of Greenpeace International. Sawyer is one of 6,000 people in Nairobi attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

East Africa is losing the snow from its mountains like Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro, which means rivers and streams fed by these mountains are running dry. Farmers will have to relocate and they need help right now, Sawyer told IPS.

"Climate change is underway and the international community must respond by offering well-targeted assistance to those countries in the front-line risked destruction," said Achim Steiner, executive director of UNEP.

Africa is also the least prepared continent and will need substantial help from developed nations to cope with impacts of climate change, said Nuttall.

"This is the first major climate change conference in Africa. There is strong interest in how to help 'climate-proof' African infrastructure," he said.

Africa is developing economically, building roads, railways and port facilities, but those have to be constructed in such a way that they will not disappear in 30 or 40 years because of the impacts of climate change, he said.

Those impacts could also devastate the world economy, the British government reported last week. The world's economy could shrink by 20 percent in the worst-case scenario, but Sir Nicholas Stern, a former chief economist of the World Bank, found that major economic impacts are a certainty under all circumstances. And his report also found that developing regions will be hit hardest.

Scientists estimate that

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