Clearview Baptist earns ‘Shining Moment’ award

The Vance County Schools “Shining Moment in Education” award was presented to representatives of Clearview Baptist Church on February 1, during the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet held in the Civic Center at Vance-Granville Community College.

With the award, the church is honored as the top business partner by the school system for the 2017-2018 school year.

Clearview Baptist Church has been an amazing partner with E.M. Rollins Elementary School for the last few school years. Principal Stephanie Alston of E.M. Rollins, made the award presentation.

Members of the church, under the leadership of Virginia Paynter, provide tutoring services for students and serve as mentors to students. They are in the school daily volunteering their time to work with students individually and in small groups. The church members are excellent role models for the students.

They provided more than 100 backpacks filled with new school supplies for the school’s annual “Back To School Bash” at the beginning of the school year. Church volunteers serve as weekly “Lunch Buddies” with students during school.

They give to E.M. Rollins students and their families in many ways on a regular basis by donating clothing, school supplies, health care packages and Christmas gifts for students. Church members send school staff members letters of support and serve as prayer partners for all interested staff. They also host school appreciation programs with meals for staff members twice during the school year.

Pastor Abidan Shah said his church members will proudly display the lead crystal vase and its engraved base in their new sanctuary building.
Local teachers receive deserved recognition

The outstanding teaching of 17 teachers in Vance County Schools was recognized during the February 12, meeting of the Vance County Board of Education. The honored teachers led their students to top performances on state tests for the 2016-2017 school year.

Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Bennett presented the teachers with bonus checks from the state for their outstanding teaching. They each were congratulated by Darlynn Oxendine, board chair, shown in red top in photos, Superintendent Anthony Jackson, standing at far right in photos, and their principal or assistant principal, standing at far left in photos.

The state’s General Assembly approved several bonus award programs for teachers in the current budget. The bonuses are for third-grade reading teachers, Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and teachers who taught advanced placement courses for a second consecutive year. For the 2016-2017 year, state legislators added bonuses for teachers in grades 4-8 in reading and math. A total of 22 Vance County Schools’ teachers received varying amounts of bonuses under the state awards program from $50 to as much as $8,500.

The programs and grade levels have different requirements and award amounts, but all of the teachers are rewarded for helping students achieve outstanding results in learning. The 17 local teachers each getting a check of over $500 from the state were recognized at the board meeting. There are 10 of the teachers ranked among the top 25 percent of teachers in the state in their respective categories.

Susan Hughes, a fifth-grade math teacher at Dabney Elementary School, second from left in top photo, was ranked 86th and among the top two percent of teachers in the state for the achievements of her students in 2016-2017.

Susan Fletcher, a third-grade reading teacher at Aycock Elementary School, center in second photo, and Yolanda Pulliam, a third-grade reading teacher at Dabney Elementary School, center in top photo, also received bonus checks for the second year and were recognized for their achievements.

Francis Brown, instructor for the Fire and Public Safety Academy at Southern Vance High School, second from left in third photo, received the maximum award allowable under the CTE category for public safety certifications provided to 140 students last year.

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Teachers

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Dr. Lisa Webster, formerly of Zeb Vance Elementary School and now at Eaton-Johnson Middle School, received the state award for her students’ outstanding fourth-grade math and reading results.

Additional teachers receiving state bonus checks and recognition from the board included: Hollie Powell, fifth-grade reading, Aycock, top photo Page 2; Iris Lacson, third-grade reading, Clarke, center of bottom photo Page 2; Bonita Williams, fourth-grade reading, Clarke, bottom photo Page 2; Justin Wrenn, third-grade reading, Dabney top photo Page 2; Debbie McCune Glanz, fourth-grade math, E.O. Young, center in top photo; Adith Williams-White, sixth-grade math, Henderson Middle; second photo; Randy Scarboro, eighth-grade math, Henderson Middle; Kevon Grant, fifth-grade reading, Estelle Mangum, fourth-grade math, and Alona Chiong, fifth-grade math, all of L.B. Yancey, starting second from left in the bottom right photo; and Tammy Pulliam, fifth-grade math, and Colleen Tyburski, fourth-grade reading, both of Zeb Vance, starting second from left in bottom left photo.

An ice cream surprise!

Kedecia Stewart, VCS and North Central Region Teacher of the Year, far left, is joined by her students in letting Blue Bell Ice Cream officials know how much they appreciate their ice cream party on February 22. Blue Bell representatives surprised Stewart during lunch in the Pinkston Street Elementary School cafeteria by bringing her gifts for her outstanding achievements as a teacher. They treated all students and staff members in the school to ice cream for the afternoon.
Consolidation conversations held at schools

School system officials hosted two more community conversations at schools to seek input on the feasibility of consolidating middle and high schools.

The events were held at Northern Vance High School on January 31, and at Southern Vance High School on February 19.

At the beginning of each event, Superintendent Anthony Jackson provided a presentation that included great detail about the consolidation proposal. He stressed that combining the schools would allow for more efficient use of facilities, assist in strengthening faculties, provide more qualified teachers for higher level courses and elective courses and save the school system approximately $2.4 million annually.

The approximately 150 citizens who attended the two sessions then divided into smaller discussion groups to provide school system administrators with their feedback on the proposal. The discussion groups considered a wide range of areas including curriculum and instruction, class size, student support services, athletics, bus transportation, effective use of technology, financial stability, staffing at schools, classroom management and discipline.

The Vance County Board of Education is expected to review all public input on the consolidation proposal and make a decision at its March 12 meeting.

Citizens provided their input during discussion groups at Northern Vance, at left, and at Southern Vance, below.
**Advanced students**

Students at Southern Vance High School have earned their certification in Core Curriculum and Green Environment in masonry and carpentry with their teacher, Ben Arrington.

They are shown in the above photo and include, seated from left, Cody Patton, David Vargas, Haudtavis Cordell and Jaylen Shearin. Others, standing from left, are Jhaiiheeim Wilkins, Miliak Hudson, Tremecia Smith and Logan Boyd. Jesse Gupton also was certified in both areas, but was unavailable for the photo. Arrington is standing at far right.

They earned their certifications through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). The certification indicates their readiness for employment.

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**VCS honors 20 associates with Vanceformation award**

There were 20 outstanding associates of Vance County Schools honored for their efforts in supporting students and colleagues at the Vanceformation breakfast held on February 8, at the Golden Corral in Henderson.

Superintendent Anthony Jackson and Dr. Cindy Bennett and Dr. Trixie Brooks, both assistant superintendents, joined in recognizing each of them. They are shown in the above photos, from center to the right.

**Photo at above right:** Fe McCoy of Carver Elementary, second from left, nominated by Tori Todd, far left.

**Photo at above left:** Michael Davis and Silka Boone, both of Finance, starting second from left, were honored. John Suther of Finance, far left, joins them.

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Vanceformation

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Photo at top right: Constance Seward of Clarke Elementary, second from left, with nominator Illona Davis, left, and Assistant Principal Regina Miles, center.

Photo at second right: Aarika Sandlin of Northern Vance High, second from left, with nominator Jameka Floyd, far left, and Principal Andrew Markoch, center.

Photo at third right: Dora Moldovan of STEM Early High, second from left, with nominator and principal, Iris Dethmers, far left.

Photo at bottom right: Dr. James Hunter of Pinkston Street Elementary, second from left, with Principal Heddie Somerville, far left.

Photo at top left: Kathy Purnell of Aycock Elementary, center, with nominator Sherry Compton, second from left, and Principal Kristen Boyd, far left.

Photo at bottom left: Evon Macon of E.O. Young, Jr. Elementary, center, with nominator Christi Welch, second from left and Principal Marylaura McKoon.

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**Photo at top right:** Michael Alston of School Nutrition, second from left, and his nominator Principal Debbie Hite of Early College High, far left.

**Photo at second right:** Bernice Terry of Early College High, second from left, and her nominator, Hite, far left.

**Photo at third right:** Loretta Terry of AdVance Academy, second from left, and her nominator Principal Stephanie Ayscue, far left.

**Photo at bottom right:** Davia Johnson of Eaton-Johnson Middle, second from left, and Principal Travis Taylor, far left.

**Photo at top left:** Cameron Eaton of Henderson Middle, second from left, and Assistant Principal Angela Pugh, far left.

**Photo at bottom left:** Razvan Tegean of L.B. Yancey Elementary, second from left, and his nominator Principal Carnetta Thomas, far left.

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Vanceformation

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Photo at top right: Natasha Hargrove of Dabney Elementary, second from left, and her nominator Principal Michael Putney, far left.

Photo at middle right: Sandra Evans of E.M. Rollins Elementary, second from left, and her principal Stephanie Alston, far left.

Photo at bottom right: Christine Francis, second from left, and her nominator Principal Rey Horner, far left.

Photo at top left: Melinda Farmer of Zeb Vance Elementary, second from left, and her nominator Principal Kristian Herring, far left.

Photo at middle left: Felicia Terry of New Hope Elementary, second from left, and her nominator Principal Harold Thompson, Jr., far left.

Photo at bottom left: Michelle Burton of Human Resources, second from left, nominated by Dr. Cindy Bennett, far left.

The Lamplighter is published monthly by the Public Information Office of Vance County Schools. School news and story ideas are welcome and may be sent to: Terri Hedrick, Public Information Officer, 492-2127, thedrick@vcs.k12.nc.us.