

Community Students Learning Center names scholarship recipients at awards banquet

By Beulah Greer
CSLC Executive Director
 Saturday night, February 24 turned out to be a win-win-win situation for three Holmes County Central High School seniors who competed for the Commu-

unity Students Learning Center's (CSLC) Eighth Annual Scholarship Awards. They were Kordel Carter, first place; Jon'na Bailey, second place; and Sundeia Sample, third place. The students were among eight

classmates who participated in the center's annual essay-writing contest. The contest is open to graduating seniors from all high schools in the county. "It was definitely an honor and pleasure to be a contes-

tant," said Carter. "I encourage my peers to take part in it for the years to come." Bailey said placing in the contest gave her a feeling of satisfaction that her hard work paid off. Sample said, "I was so elated that I asked Mrs.

Greer if I could hug her." They all shared that they are grateful for the opportunity. "All of the participants are winners in our book for simply participating," said Executive Director Beulah Greer of the non-profit organization. Each scholarship participant received a gift bag. "We are so grateful to our community and key sponsors for helping us to make this opportunity possible each year for deserving students," Greer added. Awards were not the only thing the students received. Keynote speaker Eric L. Simmons gave them some very valuable life lessons. "Stay away from dream killers!" he urged. The Pickens native, who currently lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, also told them to take care of themselves (eat right, etc.) while they are young. He also advised them to take responsibility for their education. "Always seek to educate yourselves (via internet, etc.). It opens doors for you; you can be in places you never thought you could be," he said. Simmons continued, "In your life you should seek to make memories that appreciate in values, meaning they go up, not purchase things that depreciate. I don't remember the day I signed a note on a car. I don't remember the day I bought most of my suits. Those were days that I did things that depreciated over time. But I tell you what I remember, I remember when I graduated from high school. I remember when I graduated from college. I remember the first time I was in Denmark and put my hand in the Baltic Sea."

Simmons is division quality system manager, AMER and APAC for Corning Optical Communications Optical Connectivity Solutions Division. He is married to Dawn Millender Simmons of Moss Point, Miss, and they have one son, Jaylin.



Winners along with other participants and parents pause for a photo following the banquet. Seated (from left), Kordel Carter, first place; keynote speaker Eric L. Simmons, Jon'na Bailey, second place; and Sundeia Sample, third place; standing (from left), Bishop Raymon Carter, Sharon Patton, Lashanda Eubanks, Tanisha Kirkwood, Veronica Rand, Kila Anderson, Sharon Washington, Danielle Gibson, Cartrina Benson, Cianna Hooker, Shereka Sample and CSLC founders Beulah and Leslie Greer. (Photo submitted)

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