



Photos by Judith Brown

SERVICE RECOGNITION — Above, Emily DeRoberts, Duke Energy Government and Community Relations Manager, left, and Leigh Ann Puryear, right, Community Relations Liaison for Laurens County, present the Duke Energy Award for Public Service to Rhonda Gary for her work with Laurens County youth through the non-profit, Impact 2 Purpose.

HONORING THEIR OWN — Below, At last Thursday's Laurens County Chamber annual dinner, the LCCC honored, from left, its Ambassador of the Year, Matt Dean, Leadership Laurens County Russ Emerson Award recipient Nicole Firmin, Chamber President Amanda Munyan, Leadership Laurens County Russ Emerson Award recipient Amanda Greer Veal and the John P. Faris Volunteer of the Year recipient Don Walker.



Barksdale inspires at LDHS observance

By John Clayton
Editor

As students were listening Wednesday to keynote speaker Derrick Barksdale during Laurens District High School's Black History Month observance, they also heard a note from legendary actress Cicely Tyson.

When Barksdale, a native of Ora and 1992 LDHS graduate, asked "Is you the one?," it was a nod to Tyson and one of her most famous roles, Jane Pittman from the film, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman."

"I used the language of that character," said Barksdale, who lives in Rock Hill but travels to Laurens at least twice a week as pastor of Duncan Creek Baptist Church. "I asked, 'Is you the one?' of the students because I wanted them to reflect on that as they go forward. Are they the ones that will step up and break down barriers and make history? Are they the ones that will go on and do what no one else has done?"

Barksdale said he met and was paired with Tyson, now 94, during a professional speaker's training conference in Orlando in 2008. The two worked together at the conference and became friends.

On the final day of the conference, he recalled Tyson morphing once again into the character of Pittman, a former slave who lived to see the apex of the Civil Rights Movement. In the film, Pittman, as an elder in the community, held newborns and



Photo by Crystal Byrd/SongByrd Photography

IMPORTANT MESSAGE — Derrick Barksdale, an Ora native, speaks Wednesday during the Laurens District High School Black History Month observance.

would ask, "Is you the one?"

Barksdale, who is a cybersecurity expert and works in the financial industry in Charlotte, said it was good to be back at LDHS after nearly 20 years. He wanted to impart a message of hope to a new generation of stu-

dents there.

"I wanted to tell them two things — No. 1, education is key, and No. 2, the sky is the limit regardless of where you come from, regardless of race or economic status. You can accomplish anything."

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Citadel releases fall dean's list

The dean's list is a recognition given to cadets and students who are registered for 12 or more semester hours and whose grade point average is 3.20 or higher, with no grade of I (Incomplete) and no grade below C for work in a semester.

Cadets and students named to the fall 2018 dean's list include:

Enoree - Brandon J. Copeland
Fountain Inn - Zachary R. Cecil, Ryan E. Cherrier and Timothy L. Ellmann

Gray Court - Johnathan D. Holliday and Peter B. Tillman

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