

President Ramsey Visits Shawnee High School



UofL President James Ramsey addresses students at Shawnee High School

On October 4th, UofL President James Ramsey visited Shawnee High School as part of his statewide tour to promote higher education. Ramsey was accompanied by renowned UofL heart surgeon Dr. Laman Gray and university officials from the offices of External Affairs, Admissions, and Project Upward Bounds Program.

Shawnee is one of five West Louisville schools participating in the Signature Partnership Initiative. Shawnee Principal Dr. Mernia Hill welcomed the UofL visitors and gave them an update on the many exciting things taking place at Shawnee. Dr. Hill proudly announced that Shawnee had one of the highest increases in CATS scores this year among Jefferson County Schools.

President Ramsey spoke to students in an AP English class and Algebra class to

encourage them to set their goals and work hard toward obtaining a college education. Jenny Sawyer and Phyllis Clark from the Admissions Office promoted the Cardinal Covenant Program that provides full financial assistance to eligible students who meet certain income requirements.

Dr. Gray addressed a science class highlighting his pioneering work with heart transplants, heart assist devices and the AbioCor artificial heart. The science students were fascinated when Dr. Gray passed around exact replicas of the artificial heart and other devices for the students to examine.

Two UofL students who graduated from Shawnee also participated in the visit. Monet Duke, a senior in justice administration, and Michael

Branch, a business major, shared their positive experiences at UofL and spoke about the supportive environment on campus for UofL students.

Dr. Hill led the UofL delegation on a tour of the school facility. The tour included a visit to the aviation career magnet program and the English as a Second Language (ESL) Academy. Approximately 130 students from 17 different countries are enrolled in the academy.

Dr. Ramsey's visit to Shawnee concluded with a luncheon that was attended by principals from other Signature Partnership schools, members of the University/Community Partnership Advisory Board, and members of Dr. Hill's leadership team.

Beth Johnson, principal of Western Middle School, and Dan Withers, Principal of Central High School, both highlighted the exciting activities taking place in their respective schools as a part of the Signature Partnership Initiative.



Dr. Laman Gray addresses a science class at Shawnee High School



Shawnee Principal Dr. Mernia Hill welcomes UofL visitors

Shawnee High School alumni, Michael Branch and Monet Duke talk to students at Shawnee

Workforce Development Program Graduates Second Class

The Business Opportunity and Workforce Development Center (BOWD) graduated its second cohort of Workforce Development participants on October 26, 2007. Seventeen graduates were engaged in an eight week classroom training program designed to prepare participants for transportation related careers (i.e highway construction, professional services, etc.) The workforce training program is coordinated by the Louisville Urban League and Presbyterian Community Center.

The program focuses on life skills and personal development, workforce readiness and transportation/construction industry orientation.

To qualify for the program, individuals must 1) successfully pass a five-year Department of Motor Vehicles and police records check; 2) pass both a physical and drug screening exam; 3) commit to registering for work with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet; 4) develop a professional resume and 5) agree to actively participate in work related assignments requiring them to work a standard 40-hour workweek for approximately 10 weeks.

According to BOWD Project Director Betty Fox, the overarching goal of the BOWD Center is to prepare minorities and women for highway construction jobs and careers, especially the projects adjacent to local communities. Ms. Fox works with program graduates to place them in apprenticeship programs, or directly in highway construction related jobs. Individuals interested in participating in the next class should contact Ms. Betty Fox, BOWD Center Director at 852-3553.



Workforce Development participants visit highway construction site

Central High School Students Introduced to Leadership Principles

Approximately 100 students in the Central Law and Government Magnet Program and their parents attended a dinner program at the school on September 11, 2007 to be introduced to The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens program. Program Director Joe Gutmann added this leadership component to the magnet program that focuses on encouraging students to consider a career in the practice of law or in government. This past summer, Mr. Gutmann participated in a certification workshop of Sean Covey's book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, conducted by William McKinley Blackford IV of the University's Youth Leadership Development Seminar. Throughout the school year, students will learn common sense ways of decision making and effective leadership skills.

The dinner was sponsored by Norton Hospital HealthCare. PNC Bank provided a copy of the 7 Habits book for each parent. Dr. Tom Crawford, Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus of UofL presented an introduction to the 7 Habits, using several chemical demonstrations to visually reinforce the principles underlying the 7 Habits. The students are scheduled to receive several hours of instruction in the application of these principles.

Article submitted by Tom Crawford, Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, University of Louisville

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Reception at Towson University

Pictured back row: (left to right) Dr. Henry Cunningham, Perry Clark, Susan Jenkins, Daniel Hall Front row: Dr. Anne Banks, Susan Rhodes, Dr. Vicki Hines-Martin, Dr. Ralph Fitzpatrick (See story inside)

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Signature Partnership

In collaboration with community partners, enhance the quality of life for residents in west Louisville by improving the overall educational attainment levels to equal those of Metro Louisville in general, through the integrated enhancement of health, social and economic viability of the community.