



SPECIAL RECOGNITION


Recently the Gainesville City Commission adopted the Gainesville Enrichment Mentoring (GEM) Program. The program recruits dedicated mentors from community advocacy groups, fraternal organizations, community associations, city and county governments, business organizations and churches to provide one-on-one mentoring to middle and high school students for at least one hour each week. Low income and at risk students enter the program at the 7th grade level and remain until graduation from high school, at which time they will be awarded 2-year community college scholarships.

The GEM Program is housed in and operated by the City's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). The OEO hired a Mentoring Coordinator (Intern), Kecia Anrio Johnson, for the fall semester to coordinate the GEM Program. Coordination consists of marketing the GEM Program via a variety of print, electronic, broadcast and internet tools; recruiting qualified mentors through presentation to a variety of community groups and organizations; research of federal, state and foundation mentoring grants; making application for such grants; and communicating with school officials regarding student successes.

We proudly announce that on October 12, 2010, seven middle school students signed contracts and were designated as GEM mentees. The students are:

Shantreal Buggs, Lincoln
Reshyria Clark, Howard Bishop
Capresha King, Lincoln
Willie Lake, Lincoln
Landon Manchester, Howard Bishop
Timothy Miles, Lincoln
Davlon Smith, Westwood

Congratulations to each of you! Your commitment to "do the right thing" at all times and work towards academic success is a testament to your true character. We look forward to working with each of you to help you achieve your every goal.


Craig Lowe
Mayor