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Press Release

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Two MCC Students Recognized at Academic Excellence Luncheon



Zavier ("J.J.") Mosley



Amber Fox

RALEIGH – Amber Fox and Zavier (J.J.) Mosley were honored as Martin Community College’s (MCC) Academic Excellence Award winners during the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS)’s annual awards luncheon held at the Raleigh North Hilton yesterday (Wednesday, April 16, 2008).

This was the 11th time more than 600 community college staff, students and supporters, including about 15 legislators, gathered to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the 116 selected students from North Carolina’s 58 community colleges.

Each community college in the system is eligible to name two recipients for the prestigious award. Students are chosen based on their academic success and their personification of an exemplary community college student. Fox and Mosley, who were nominated and selected by MCC faculty vote, both boast a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average.

Fox, a Chocowinity resident, is an Accounting major and member of MCC’s Alpha Beta Gamma, an international business honor society. She serves as a student leader in the Supplemental Instruction program, part of an initiative through MCC’s “Achieving the Dream” grant funding.

Fox's nominating instructor said she exemplifies the desired traits for students of excellence, including the ability to develop good work and study habits, an understanding of the concepts presented in course materials, and a willingness to serve peers by tutoring.

A mother of a one-year old daughter and three-year old son, Fox hopes to find a well-paying job following graduation from MCC. She also aspires to continue her studies at a four-year institution for a bachelor's degree.

Mosley, a Windsor native, was not only selected by MCC as an award recipient but was also chosen by the NCCCS office to be one of three students featured to speak at the luncheon. In doing so, he helped represent all the honored students in the room, each with his or her personal story of triumph over adversity or special challenges.

Pursuing an Associate in Applied Science degree in Commercial Refrigeration Technology, Mosley said MCC is giving him a chance at a better life. In addition to being a full-time student, he is president of Phi Theta Kappa, MCC's honor society, serves as a Supplemental Instruction student leader in math and volunteer. He also works on campus in the college's financial aid office as a work-study student.

"I am grateful for all the experiences I have to be better than I was before," said Mosley.

Mosley's nominating instructor noted his high academic performance in his program of study and his character as a strong student leader, describing him as a "well-rounded" student.

The awards luncheon was also a chance to pay special tribute to retiring System President Martin Lancaster, who with Cape Fear Community College President Eric McKeithan, created the event to praise students and give deserved acknowledgment to the colleges that educate them.

Several speakers took the opportunity to thank Lancaster for his years of service to the community colleges and especially to the students. Dr. Pat Skinner, Gaston College president and president of the NC Association of Community College Presidents, was one of those that shared their thoughts. Dr. Skinner also presented the Robert W. Scott Leadership Award, sponsored by the Presidents' Association, to Demetrius Sykes, a college transfer graduate of Wayne Community College now attending East Carolina University.

Sykes was chosen from among six finalists from the six trustee regions across the state. While at Wayne, Sykes was a mentor, a student leader, coach to two little league athletic teams and a founding member of the Minority Male Mentoring program at the college. He served in the US Marine Corps Special Forces and is a certified Emergency Management Technician. He is in Athletic Training Education program at ECU.

The North Carolina Community College System enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the System is North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education. For details, visit www.nccommunitycolleges.edu. To learn more about MCC, its curriculum programs, continuing education courses, and community services, please visit the college's website at www.martincc.edu.

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