

PRESS RELEASE

FSU Charter Schools Office Launches Successful Detroit Woodbridge Promise Program

DETROIT

Thursday, August 6, 2015, marked a day of reckoning and praise for 13 high school juniors – 11 from Detroit’s Consortium College Preparatory High School, and 2 from Warren’s Michigan Collegiate High School, both public school academies authorized by Ferris State University’s Charter Schools Office. Why? Because, as full-fledged *college* students enrolled in FSU’s first Detroit Woodbridge Promise Summer Success Program, these scholars have now become Charter Members of an elite group. With assigned FSU ID #s, instructional materials and learning tools in hand, they have successfully completed seven intensive weeks of college classes in Math (Algebra), Reading and Language Arts, and College Study Skills. Now that Final Exams are over and exit grades have been released, Detroit Woodbridge scholars and instructors have a reason to smile!

According to Dr. Ronald S. Rizzo, FSU Charter Schools Director, “Woodbridge Promise naturally aligns with our Mission which focuses on student success and continuous improvement through quality oversight, professional learning opportunities and relevant resources.” Dr. Rizzo went on to add, “We felt compelled to bring to Detroit a program and resources that has successfully operated for several years on the west side of the state. I’m pleased that we did, because our Detroit students have proven that unique, challenging opportunities accompanied by appropriate learning tools can result in promising and high levels of achievement.”

Detroit Woodbridge Promise Summer Scholars



SEATED, L to R: Shamiya Hill, Alexis Griffin (Michigan Collegiate), Jessica Garcia, Brandy Anthony, Brenda Gamboa Ramirez and Done’a White. STANDING, L to R: Math Instructor Janelle Pearson Hoskins, Detroit Woodbridge Coordinator Dr. Phyllis E. Robinson, Andre Reed, Clifton Jones, Ivana Kadima, Vincent Love, Heaven Pollard, Amari Spearman, Lazarus Tennessee (Michigan Collegiate) and Reading Language Arts and College Study Skills Instructor Carolyn Starkey Darden.

COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

When students return to school on September 8, they’ll enter their senior year with nine college credits under their belts, and all have committed to register for CARE 102, which will generate three more FSU college credits offered through an online career exploration program. The group of scholars will have 12 transferrable college credits by the time they graduate in June 2016. When surveying the class, it’s obvious to see why there are broad smiles, feelings of relief and a sense of accomplishment.

DETROIT WOODBRIDGE PROMISE (continued)

SPECIAL AWARDS

Statistics for Detroit's Woodbridge Promise participants were impressive:

- All 13 who showed up the FIRST day, matriculated for the entire seven week program and received FSU Charter Members Certificates of Completion.
- 11 of 13 scholars had Perfect Attendance. The other two only missed 1 or 2 days.
- Three Male scholars received "Academic Excellence" Medallions for achieving all "As," or a combination of "As" and "Bs" in every class – i.e., Reading, Math/Algebra and College Study Skills.



Vincent Love receives the "Academic Excellence Award," Highest Honors.



Andre Reed receives "Academic Excellence Award," Highest Honors.



Clifton Jones receives "Academic Excellence" Award, High Honors.

- Eight scholars received Gold Ribbon Medallions for achievements in the Math/Algebra Class: Brandy Anthony; Shamiya Hill; Clifton Jones; Ivana Kadima; Vincent Love; Andre Reed; Amari Spearman; and Lazarus Tennessee (Michigan Collegiate.)
- Nine scholars received Red Ribbon Medallions for achievements in Reading/Language Arts: Shamiya Hill; Clifton Jones; Ivana Kadima; Vincent Love; Brenda Gamboa Ramirez; Andre Reed; Amari Spearman; Lazarus Tennessee; and Done'a White.
- Four students: Brandy Anthony; Alexis Griffin (Michigan Collegiate); Heaven Pollard; and Brenda Gamboa Rameriz were recognized for demonstrating the most "growth" in their overall educational Progress. Jessica Garcia was encouraged for her perseverance and growth in Reading.



Although the intense college course standards were a bit challenging, the Detroit scholars applied themselves, remained focused, and were determined to adjust. They were attentive and conscientious within the classroom and through homework assignments.

Dr. Phyllis E. Robinson, Detroit Woodbridge Promise Coordinator, has nothing but praise for the two instructors, Ms. Janelle Pearson Hoskins who taught Math and Algebra, and Mrs. Carolyn Starkey Darden who taught Reading, English Language Arts and the College Study Skills class. According to Robinson, "Both instructors went above and beyond to provide quality instruction

and support for the scholars. They spent extra time counseling and serving as advisors to students." Robinson added, "Ms. Hoskins and Mrs. Darden wanted students to adopt strategies for coping with the independence and self-discipline required to become successful college students." Based on their achievements, these scholars have embraced the Woodbridge Promise for their future.

Submitted by Phyllis E. Robinson

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