

ANOTHER STORY OF SUCCESS

Marshell LaDon Boyd was 17 years old and four months from graduation at Marvell High School when she gave birth to a daughter, which was not the most promising circumstance for success for either the mother or the baby. But she had one advantage: years of participation in the educational growth activities of the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center.

Three college degrees later - all coupled with high honors - Marshell Boyd was back at Marvell recently with a message, delivered at the annual BGACDC banquet: *Whatever your circumstances, you can do it too.*

"Restoring Our Legacy" was the theme for the 35th annual banquet, held November 13, 2019, and no one was ever better suited to restore and amplify BGACDC's legacy of service, community commitment and individual growth. She inspired the crowd with her story and the charge to give back to your community the advantages that you once received.

When she got pregnant a year before graduation she decided that it did not have to mean the end of her education, despite the hardship of meager resources and the looming burden of raising a child. After high school, she enrolled at the University of Pine Bluff and graduated with honors in 1991. She and her husband then moved to Greenwood, MS and she later pursued a master's degree in business administration, graduating in 2015 with highest honors. She also received a second master's degree, in rural public policy, and graduated in 2019 with honors.

"You are never too old to learn," she said. She just finished a three-month course on tax preparation and will start her own business in January at Greenwood, Miss.

Mrs. Boyd thanked Beatrice Shelby, the longtime director of BGACDC, for constantly encouraging her to continue her education and to get involved in community and school activities. In high school, she was president of the Fun Fund Club (Save the Children) and arranged care packages from sponsors for needy people in the community. She shared her journey with the crowd. Through her years of participation in BGACDC's many activities, she developed numerous skills that would prove invaluable. Drawing on her experience with BGACDC, she was equipped to handle herself in real-world situations and succeed in her life and her career.

