

# OPENING DOORS TO THE FUTURE



Every youngster's senior year in high school is the door to careers, success, good families and happiness, so every year it is naturally a concentration of the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center and its 18-39 Parental Empowerment Program.

This year, the program's Senior Success project is run by Netasha Brown, Shakina Jasper and Ka'Chastity White. They focus their efforts on the goals of seniors and their families, whether those goals are short-term or long-term. Like any good educational or social program, it concentrates on networking, partnering and collaboration with the Marvell-Elaine public schools and with families.

Collaborating with Emily Boales, the school counselor, Senior Success assisted in providing information about college funding, scholarships, trade and other occupational opportunities, including contacts with higher education institutions and with occupational opportunities.

The Parental Empowerment Program attended weekly meetings at the school Homeroom for seniors during the first period every week and provided one-on-one contacts with rising graduates. With Mrs. Boales, the CDC staff organized Senior Night. The Phillips Community College financial aid office spoke with and assisted the seniors and their families with completing their FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) documents.

Speakers from various trades and people with degrees in different specialties spoke to the students and answered questions from them or their family members. The project provided educational, health, social and artistic information and promoted community involvement. Many volunteers also assisted the project in various ways.

The 18-39 Parental Empowerment Program is committed to the health, educational, social, recreational and emotional wellbeing of the Marvell-Elaine communities.

