

SIGNING UP FOR LIFETIME SUCCESS



When First Lady Michelle Obama launched the Reach Higher Initiative in 2014, it was her notion that high school graduation for disadvantaged youngsters should not be a culmination but a beginning. They should resolve to complete education beyond high school.

So the Marvell-Elaine School District and Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center collaborated to embrace her idea of a College Signing Day rally, where students are motivated to complete college or another postsecondary training program.

More than 100 attended the event May 3 at the Marvell-Elaine High School campus. Representatives from the Phillips County Community College of the University of Arkansas, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Arkansas Workforce made presentations, and economic and workforce data was supplied by Southern Bancorp, BGACDC's 4-H program, Arkansas Workforce and the school district's Save the Children program. Phillips County Judge Clark Hall signed an edict making it Higher Education Signing Day in the county.



The United States once led the world in the percentage of youngsters who had finished college but it has sunk to 13th among nations. Three-fourths of new jobs created every year require education beyond high school, and over their lifetimes youngsters who complete college earn an average of a million dollars more than those who do not. BGACDC and the Elaine-Marvell schools resolved that the community will not be left behind.