

A Ladder to Independence

Tyronda Lewis, a senior this fall at Marvell High School, participated in the School to Work Transition Program, where she picked up the training and the "soft skills" needed to be selected for a summertime job in a depression economy. This experience provides a solid foundation and offers participants a glimpse into what life in the workforce is like.

The School to Work Transition Program teaches young people not only the fundamentals of employment but also about the pride that comes with putting in a solid work week and receiving a paycheck that was earned through hard and honest work.



Tyronda Lewis with Marvell Mayor Donald Cutlip (left) and Marvell Police Chief Vincent Bell (right).

"The BGACDC program taught me that I could use the skills I learned in school to get a good job and become independent," Lewis said.

With the training and support at BGACDC, she qualified as a police radio dispatcher and passed the state examination for licensing as an Arkansas police dispatcher. She spent the summer as dispatcher for the Marvell Police Department.

"I did not think that I would pass the test but my work site supervisor and SWTP instructor thought that I would. I thank them for their support and confidence in my potential," said Lewis.

A grant from the Foundation for the Mid South supports job training for 15 to 20 young persons : year in Marvell and Elaine.



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