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Mid-Year Celebration For Education

Salute the Stars in Education! This was the theme for this year's Mid-Year Celebration for Education, which drew a crowd of 125 people to *Georgia Highlands College's Lakeview Building*. Food was provided by **Garth Gheradini** and his staff at *Outback Steakhouse*.

This year's guest speakers were past students and their mentors telling their personal stories and how the mentoring program has impacted their lives. **Duane Reid** and **Curtis Adams** were heroes for 15-year-old Devonnaire Bowers. Reid, a recent appointee to the *Rome City Commission* and owner of *Rome Ford-Lincoln-Mercury*, and Adams, vice president of *100 Black Men of Rome-Northwest Georgia*, took Bowers under their wing, putting him back on track for success at *Rome Middle School*.

"They came every week ... they told me to deal with what was on my plate, and I learned a lot from them," he said.

Brothers Shane and Bryan Sapp said that if it hadn't been for their mentor, Rome's **Dan Greeson**, they'd be lost. Shane said his grades have improved since Greeson had entered his life, while Bryan credits him getting involved in *Rome High's ROTC* program.

"If there was an award for a mentor, Mr. Greeson deserves that honor," Bryan said. The brothers met Greeson at the *Open Door Home*. "Everybody needs a mentor. I think everyone needs someone to inspire them. He helped keep us out of trouble."

The speakers sent a strong message about community involvement in the mentoring program. Reid, for one, said he knows how important role models are in the life of young people. Reid credits a high school teacher for his success today. "He believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. (He) forced me to be a better student," Reid said. "It made an impact in my life and I believe it can make a difference in the life of someone else."



Mentor Dan Greeson with brothers Shane and Bryan Sapp spoke at the 2006 Mid-Year Celebration for Education benefiting the Communities In Schools program.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like more information about the mentoring program, please contact **Ms. Nancy Griffin**, Executive Director, *Communities In Schools*, at 706-802-5740. ■



Duane Reid, Devonnaire Bowers, Curtis Adams and Chamber Chairman Willis Potts were each integral parts of the 2006 Mid-Year Celebration for Education held at Georgia Highlands College. Each spoke about the importance and the difference a positive role model can make in the lives of others.