The Weekly Challenger

We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

St. Petersburg • Clearwater • Largo • Tarpon Springs • Dunedin • Safety Harbor

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 29  MARCH 15 - MARCH 21, 2012  ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
Quantum Students Ace
Dr. Mac Williams Awards

BY DR. YVONNE SCRUGGS-LEFTWICH
SPECIAL TO THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER

ST. PETERSBURG - For two years running, more than one-third of the 30 high school students who are CCEJ-Quantum Opportunities program participants, called Quantum Associates, have been honored for their high grade point averages at the Annual Dr. Mac J. Williams Academic Excellence Awards program. The eleven Quantum Associates are members of a national Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation and U. S. Justice Department funded afterschool academic and social enrichment program. Known as CCEJ-Quantum in St. Petersburg, it is operated by the non-profit Center for Community and Economic Justice Corporation and is the only one of seven such national programs located in the state of Florida.

The Dr. Mac J. Williams, Sr. Awards program, created in memory of the iconic educational leader and world ambassador, has been held each fall at the Palladian at St. Petersburg College. This year the program attracted a standing-room only audience. Many parents of the honorees and extended family members were present.

The Quantum Associates who are becoming permanent Dr. Mac J. Williams, scholars are: Dominique Smith, Quanishia Bethune, Antonio Bogan; Jessica Faulk,NONE Gibson, Tajon Hinds, Tiana Hinton, Tyrone Darion Johnson, Lauren Lord and Gabrielle Robinson and Dietrick Fowler. These students have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average over the high school years, and Dominique Smith has a 4.0 average at Collegiate as well.

QUANTUM continued on pg. 12
Quantum Associates and staff have designed and begun an anti-bullying, anti-hate project called, “IT’S O.K. 2 B U.” Following the creative guidance of the Quantum Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer Hills-Wheeler, the slogan “IT’S O.K. 2 B U” is emblazoned on 3 inch lapel buttons, and captures the sense of fairness, tolerance and positive leadership reflected in the pledge which they are asking their peers at school to sign.

Graphic artist Anthony Munnerlyn, actor Jaylen Johnson, performance artist and composer Khalil Ware, and their other Quantum colleagues, Chynel Lavine, Nicholas Oliveros and Tajon Hinds, have developed an over-sized wall posters to telegraph the impact of the anti-bullying and anti-hate message of the project. The associates plan also to include two Middle Schools in the initiative.

The objectives of the CCEJ-Quantum Opportunities program are to expand the experiences and the academic potential and achievement of the associates through tutoring and mentor-coaching in leadership, critical thinking, civic engagement, healthy eating and law-abiding behaviors, and multi-cultural advancement.

The founders and operators of CCEJ-Quantum in St. Petersburg are Rev. Edward V. Leftwich (Chair/President-Emeritus) and Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, President-CEO and Principle Investigator. See more on the website: www.ccejquantum.org.