



2019 Leah S. Vines Scholarship Award Celebration

“Celebrate the Past, Embrace the Future” was the theme for the 4th Annual LSV Scholarship Award Banquet held in Pinetops on June 8, 2019 at Pines Chapel Church Fellowship Hall. The scripture: I know the plan I have for you, declares the Lord, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 More than 270 people attended the celebration.

Helen Collins was Mistress of Ceremony. It was a blissful evening of entertainment by Evangelist Wanda Barnes opening selection of “You Raise Me Up.” Reverend Carol Allen White, Clerk of Edgecombe Superior Court, rendered the Invocation followed by Evangelist Wanda Barnes’s sensational, “I Can Only Imagine.” The welcome was given by the director, Leah S. Vines. The History was by Secretary, Marsha Cooper and the Purpose by By-laws Chairperson, Katie Staton.

The speaker was Dr. Gregory McLeod, President of Edgecombe Community College. He was introduced by Victor Vines, president of the LSV Scholarship Fund. Following another selection by Evangelist Wanda Barnes, “Find Your Wings,” Dr McLeod delivered the keynote address. His inspiring message to the recipients began with the theme: “Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future.” He asked the recipients to think about the incredible journey their parents and grandparents went through for them to be able to go to college. He repeated, speaking to everyone, he said, we should Celebrate our Past by remembering what our forefathers went through and embrace our future by encouraging the young people here today to be all that they can be. He spoke of his own experiences and challenges through his educational journey. He warned the recipients not to go after the easiest major there is in college. Have high expectations of yourself and others. The world gets more and more complex every day. We need more engineers, doctors, architects, business degrees. Be aware and be



resourceful. Know that this scholarship is an investment in you; a small token to let you know that the Dream team and the entire community believes in you. Live the dream by going as far as you can go, be all that you can be. Dr Mcleod received a standing ovation at the end of his address.

Each year the committee selects someone from the community who motivates prosperity in the community as role models with hopes the scholarship recipients will follow pursuit and become good citizens and always give back. Mr. Marshall Dunn of Piggly Wiggly and Mr. Gerald Abrams of Abrams Barbecue were the 2019 honorees and both were presented the Business of Excellence Awards for their service and contribution to keeping the community strong.