

## AmeriCorps Honors Member of Excellence



By Gwen Woodson  
AmeriCorps Director

Since beginning her service in September 2012, as a full-time AmeriCorps member, Cynthia James has demonstrated that she knows how to “get things done!” Providing tutoring services at the Grenada Middle School, Cynthia James is committed to helping her students excel.

The Grenada School District has hosted AmeriCorps members for the last six years in the role of tutors, focusing on tutoring GSD K-8 students in math and reading. Each AmeriCorps member is principally responsible for tutoring approximately 30 students on a daily basis during the school year. There are 1,015 students involved in the tutoring program.

Cynthia James was well poised to succeed in this position. As a Licensed Practical Nurse and Pastor’s Wife, she has been immersed in service projects for years. She graduated from Holmes Community College and has been working in the health profession for 20 years and school setting for five years, (three years as a School Nurse in Georgia and two years as an AmeriCorps Member).

“I wanted to join AmeriCorps so I could make a difference in Grenada by educating area youth and serving my community,” Cynthia stated. “My two years of service will give me the necessary skills, experience, and training needed to broaden my horizons.”

Cynthia James is married to Stanley James and they have three children: Candice (MSU Sophomore), Cameron (GHS Junior), and Jordan (GMS 6th grade).

As an AmeriCorps member, Cynthia has served at the 100 Black Men Gala, MLK Day Breakfast, Downtown Jubilee, Soup Kitchen, and clean-up of Chakchiuma Swamp. The greatest fulfillment/highlight of service Cynthia experienced was Christmas in April.

According to the GSDAP Program Director Gwen Woodson, “Cynthia exemplifies the spirit of service through her positive attitude, passion for helping others, and dedication to students. She has also shown exemplary leadership skills in her role as GSDAP Team Leader.”

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps program, contact Program Director Gwen Woodson at [gwoodson@grenadak12.com](mailto:gwoodson@grenadak12.com). For more information about AmeriCorps, visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).

Grenada School District Website  
[www.grenadak12.com](http://www.grenadak12.com)



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Grenada School District

# GHS 9th Graders Tour Holmes Community College

By Katie Jones  
GHS Counselor

In an effort to focus 9th graders on the goal of going to college, we took a trip! Mr. Washington, 9th grade principal, and Katie Jones, 9th grade counselor, guided a group of 50 students from the 9th grade transition program to tour Holmes Community College in Goodman on September 18. Students in the 9th grade think they have plenty of time to take the ACT, decide on a college, and choose a major. While four years of high school sounds like an eternity to them, it’s really not! We are focusing our 9th grade class to adequately prepare for college. Taking college trips is one way in which the Grenada High School is helping students reach their dreams of attending college.

Ninth grade teachers drill into the freshman that college preparation begins the first day you set foot on campus at GHS. A high school student’s GPA begins in 9th grade and follows them through their senior year. This is a vital piece of information for students to understand how colleges determine acceptance. We want to contribute to the students’ level of college readiness as much as possible.

On the trip to Holmes Community College, the students were given a walking tour of the campus via a scavenger hunt. Some of the



highlights of the trip included: the scavenger hunt around campus, eating lunch in the cafeteria, a glance at the classrooms, and a trip to the bookstore. We even got an opportunity to see Grenada High alumni around campus!

Dr. Jackie Hale, academic counselor, guided our tour through the beautiful campus. She described the many different types of scholarships available for our Mississippi students.

Dean of Students Andy Wood gave a warm welcome and invitation to the homecoming game! The students from Grenada High got an opportunity to experience college for a day and they loved it! We are making the connection that hard work in high school leads to college and lifelong success!

## See You At The Pole...



“See You at the Pole” is a student-initiated student-organized, and student-led event. The students can chose to meet at the flag pole annually to pray for the country, leaders, teachers, and fellow students. (front l to r) Dontavius Allen, Melonie VanBuren, Corderrius Wright, Teacher Latonya Cooper, (back l to r) Gideons Representative Glen DeHart, Shanique Meeks, Friendship Baptist Church Youth Minister Jake Waits, and Christ Community Church Pastor John Goldwater participated in the “See You at the Pole” ceremonies.

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