

*Mayland Community College Hosts Dream Day and
Mayland Early College High School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*

Mayland Community College (MCC) hosts D.R.E.A.M. Day annually to celebrate accomplishments for the year at MCC. This year, MCC recognized Mayland Early College (MECHS) for a dream come true.

D.R.E.A.M. stands for **D**reams **R**ealized **E**very day **A**t **M**ayland. In addition to a ribbon cutting ceremony on the renovated school for MECHS housed in the Phillips-Gwaltney Center, three student speakers represented the early college on the program on November 14. Students Sabrina Brewer (Mitchell County), James Carson (Avery County) and Leia Woody (Yancey County) told their story during the celebration program.

Mrs. Angela Burlison, MECHS Principal, took the stage to introduce the three student speakers. James Carson told of his first day at MECHS and how the program had grown and changed. He talked specifically about the diverse culture in having three counties represented in one high school. Carson related, "This program has taught me more responsibility, to overcome challenges and to welcome diversity. I am more motivated to succeed academically because all the teachers and staff are constantly encouraging me to do my very best."

Sabrina Brewer spoke of her decision to come to MECHS. "Basketball was my life in eighth grade. The excitement that I felt when I played, combined with the love I had for the game, almost made it impossible for me to choose going to MECHS; but then, I had an epiphany. What if I never got the basketball scholarship to go on to college? That thought terrified me because it brought to my attention the likelihood of fulfilling my goals in life without college," said Brewer.

Leia Woody spoke last and brought tears to many of the people in the audience with her heart-felt speech. "I have had help in getting where I am today because of the people I thought would never care about me...but I can say I've been proven wrong. I thought I would never find my place in the world. Now, I know where my place is. The teachers never let me give up on me." Woody continued, "We have all changed, but in a mature and smarter way, by the experiences that most people don't have until they become adults. I know now that I can do it, and that is exactly what I am going to do; not just for other people to be proud of me, but for me!"

MECHS is a collaborative partnership between Mitchell, Avery and Yancey school systems as well as Mayland Community College. MECHS students can only enter as freshmen and must commit one full year to the program. MECHS is currently recruiting for the 2011-12 school year. If you would like more information, or would like to have representatives from MECHS speak at your civic club or organization, please call Liz Silvers at (828) 765-1401 or email lsilvers@mayland.edu. You can also find out more about our program by visiting our website at mechs.mayland.edu.



Photo cutline: MECHS staff pictured with MCC Board of Trustees and other guests are: Mike Lahm, Jeff Lavoie, Jennifer Robinson, Marie Hunnicutt, and Liz Silvers. MECHS James Carson and Sabrina Brewer are pictured in the last row. MCC Vice President Rhia Crawford, MECHS Principal Angela Burlson, MCC Past President Dr. Suzanne Owens and Interim President Dr. Tommy Williams cut the ribbon.