News Release
March 23, 2010

Open House & Orientation Held at MECHS

“If you can DREAM it, you can DO it!” quoted guidance counselor Elaine Wyatt at the Mayland Early College High School’s (MECHS) Open House on Tuesday night, March 23. Borrowing this quotation from Walt Disney, Wyatt expounded the benefits of the Early College Program and what it offers to young people and their families as a choice in Mitchell, Avery and Yancey Counties.

Dr. John Gossett, Vice President of Student Services at Mayland Community College welcomed perspective parents and students to Mayland. “I was not an advocate of this program in the planning stages,” he said. “However, once I found out more about the program and began to see the students and staff at work here on campus, I am very much in favor of it.”

Dr. Gossett went on to say that he commended the three county school systems for their unique ability to collaborate together for the betterment of ALL students within the Mayland service area.

“Dr. Brock Womble had the wisdom and knowledge to write a planning grant with the support of the Mitchell County Board of Education,” praised Gossett. “Partnering with Dr. Keith Eades, Avery County Schools superintendent, who came to the county with his vision for an Early College and Dr. Tom Little, Yancey County Superintendent, a strong supporter of students, a collaborative grant was submitted
to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on behalf of all three counties.”

Dr. Suzanne Owens, President of Mayland Community College, lent support and resources from the college, providing a central facility as well as college instruction to the program; therefore, turning the planning, vision and dream into a reality for all three counties.

The program is managed by a governing board, made up of the three superintendents and another representative from each county as well as Dr. Owens and a representative from the college.

"Where Dreams Begin, the motto of the MECHS Timberwolves, exemplifies what our school is all about,” said Ms. Angela Burleson, MECHS Principal. Burleson has made visits to all county middle schools over the past few weeks presenting eighth graders with information about the program. The same information with even more detail was given to parents, with an invitation to tour and ask questions of current students, parents and staff.

Mayland Early College High School is an expansion of our three county high schools, which delivers a program based on responsibility, relevance, rigor, respect and relationships. Students are ONLY accepted as incoming freshman and must commit to one year at MECHS. Upon completion of the five year program, students will graduate with their high school diploma as well as have the opportunity to earn their two year Associate’s in Arts degree.

If interested in the Mayland Early College program for your child for the 2010-11 school year, please contact us at (828) 765-7351, ext. 301. Applications must be received at your child’s middle school or by our office by April 1, 2010. You may also access our contact information through our new MECHS website at mechs.mayland.edu.