Interfaith Scholarships Provide Hope for Community

BIRMINGHAM, AL (March 29, 2012) – Leaders of the faith-based community came together at Lawson State Community College to celebrate the Lawson State Interfaith Partnership Outreach Program (IPOP), formerly known as the Pastoral Scholarship Program. Attendees discussed grant opportunities for those needing a second chance at achieving higher education. Each year, the college sets aside an evening to reflect on the history of the IPOP initiative, celebrate the success of the Scholarship Program and review the scholarship and college admissions process.

As college administration prepares for the upcoming academic year, the promise to the faith-based community remains strong and intact. Though the name of the scholarship program has been changed, Lawson State is pleased for the ability to continue providing scholarships through the Interfaith Partnership Outreach Program. The new, more inclusive name is more appropriate for the initiative that was designed to provide access and opportunity to the students in pursuit of higher education. Members of the scholarship committee find it imperative that everyone in the faith-based community be aware of the collaboration between the College and all walks of faith in its service area and asks that everyone eligible take advantage of this innovative program. The effort has partnered two of the community’s most influential entities to work in motivating students towards an enriching educational endeavor.

IPOP eligible students are referred by their pastor and must be a first-time college student, have a high school grade point average of 3.00 (or 2.75 for the entering semester) and take a minimum of 12 semester hours. All applications are due by April 16. In its decades-old history, IPOP has provided a vehicle for students from various church affiliations and from surrounding counties to pursue the dream eluding many because of finances.

President Perry W. Ward showed his appreciation for those able to participate on behalf of the College administration, IPOP Committee and Lawson State faculty and staff. “We thank each of our community leaders for coming, for their continued support over the years, and for all the well-wishes as we move forward in this era of service and excellence in education,” said Dr. Ward. “It is only fitting that we commend you for encouraging your members to pursue higher education in today’s difficult economic times.”

For more information about the Interfaith Partnership Outreach Program, visit www.lawsonstate.edu or call 929-6315.

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MEMBERS OF THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY CELEBRATE LAWSON STATE’S INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP OUTREACH PROGRAM.