

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Jordan Watkins Crowned Miss Lawson State Community College

BESSEMER, Alabama –

- *The Harlem Renaissance – a time between the end of World War 1 and the mid 1930's when cultural, social and artistic expression exploded*
- *The Harlem Renaissance - a time in Harlem, New York, when as the symbolic cultural capital for this new consciousness or awareness - black writers, artists, musicians, photographers, poets and scholars gathered*
- *The Harlem Renaissance – a time when music reflected the revolt from customs and confinement*

It was an evening of Harlem Renaissance relived - full of music, song and artistic atmosphere of the 1920's-30's - but the night and all that jazz belonged to the one crowned Ms. Lawson State Community College at Coronation 2016 – Jordan Alexandria Watkins.

The new Ms. Lawson State is a sophomore business administration major with a 4.0 grade point average. Her numerous campus activities include the Student Government Association, Lawson State Ambassadors, Phi Beta Lambda, Kappa Beta Delta, Phi Theta Kappa, Peer Mentors and the Lawson State Choir. Upon graduation from Lawson State in May 2017, Jordan plans to continue her education at the University of Alabama and major in accounting. Her career goal is to become a certified public accountant. Jordan, a 2015 graduate of Hoover High School, is guided by John 16:33 as a motto: "Have peace in spite of the tribulations and be of good cheer for God has overcome the world."

"This is truly an honor for me. The crowning of Miss Lawson State enhances and broadens the opportunity to be a role model and an ambassador for the college which I anticipate on doing with pose, class and integrity," said Watkins. "I plan to uphold the standards of the previous Miss Lawson States by volunteering my time, my talents and my teamwork through participation and involvement. I want young girls who come after me to know that anything can be accomplished with a modest and humble spirit. I sincerely look forward to the experiences and everlasting joy that will come from representing the college and being an outstanding and influential role model."

Selected as first attendant to Ms. Lawson State was Adreonna Summerville, a pre-dentistry major with a 3.4 grade point average. She is Vice President of the Sophomore Class and a member of Phi Beta Lambda. Summerville plans to further her education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, pursuing a degree in dentistry. She was a 2015 graduate of Akron Community School.

Second attendant to Ms. Lawson State was Erika Kristen Baskerville, a criminal justice major with a 3.56 grade point average. She serves as Vice President of the Honors College, a Big Sister/Mentor associated with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and is a student Mentor for the Peer Mentor Program at Lawson State. Baskerville, a graduate of Center Point High in Birmingham, plans to further her education at a four year institution in Alabama.

Rounding out the field of six in competition this year for Ms. Lawson State were: Adrienne L. Gadsden, a 3.72 gpa computer science major, who plans after graduation to attend Alabama A&M University; Aleecia Jones, a business administration major with a 3.53 gpa, who plans to attend the University of Alabama after graduation; and Ebony Jones, a music major with a 3.16 gpa, who plans to further her education at Tennessee State University as a biology major.

“I want to congratulate all of them (our contestants) for having the courage, the stamina, the desire to participate in an event like this,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State. “I am so proud of each and every one of you, and remember, each of you is a winner tonight.”

As winner of the coveted Ms. Lawson State title, Watkins claims a presidential scholarship, gift certificates and items from the Lawson State bookstore. She also received gifts from the nearly 50 departmental representatives who were a part of the evening’s renaissance.

Miss Watkins, assumed the crown from Ms. Lawson State 2015, Alyssa Janay Miller, now a student at Jacksonville State University.

President Ward led Ms. Watkins in the customary first dance reserved for the queen, and then was interrupted by Dr. Bruce Crawford, vice president of Instructional services, who was later interrupted by Norris Watkins, father of the new Ms. Lawson State. They danced to the memorable and classic tune of ‘Summertime.’

Ms. Diana Preoteasa, director of Choral Activities at Lawson State, and Mr. Eric Agee, Health and Physical Education instructor and Strength Coach for the Athletics Department at Lawson State, served as Mistress and Master of Ceremony.

