

College starts early for some juniors

BY SHANA NOE

Training for the "real world" doesn't usually go past school. There you receive lessons on work ethic, responsibility and being knowledgeable in all subjects. But thanks to a few special opportunity programs, such as the Georgetown Mentorship Program, life's lessons are extended to toning leadership skills, cultural exposure and even etiquette.

"To me, it [the program] does three things," Dale Whitaker, Rockcastle High School's counselor said. "One, it exposes students to what college life is about. Two, it develops their leadership skills to a more mature level, and if they go through all the activities and have good standing, they receive a \$4000 scholarship to Georgetown."

"The Georgetown Program provides opportunities for students that normal, everyday high school can't," junior Aaron Anderkin stated. Anderkin, along with fourteen other juniors, will complete the program in late December or early January with more benefits than just good times.

The program members, who were chosen out of thirty-five applicants from the junior class, are

required to complete all the planned activities. The activities range from a ropes course on the Georgetown campus to attending a famous musical. The students participate in special training courses to help build their leadership and cooperation skills. They also attend a formal dinner designed to teach them proper etiquette and what fork you use with what.

A few years ago, Mayor Karen King went through an experience in which she didn't know which of the eighteen forks to use.

"I was thinking, 'What do I do?'" recalls Mayor King.

King, who is responsible for bringing the program to Rockcastle, says no one should have to go through that.

"It's a bit overwhelming at first," senior Courtney Alexander, who was a member of the program last year, said of the etiquette training. "You lose your appetite at first because you're so worried about what to do, but... at the awards banquet, when it's all over, you take pride in teaching your parents the 'right way to eat.'"

Aside from the group work, the students are given the opportunities

to observe college classes and spend the weekend on campus, where they get to work on their verbal skills and get a little taste of what a college dorm is like. Then, upon completion of the program, they receive a scholarship for \$1000 per year they attend Georgetown, a total of \$4000.

"It's an advantage that Rockcastle students will have over others," Mayor King stated.

The Mentorship Program, which was started in Scott County eight years ago by Georgetown College President William Crouch, is in its third year here at Rockcastle. President Crouch, who was mentored as a young adult, decided to carry out the tradition to fulfill a wish from his mentor when he passed on.

The program is funded through Renfro Valley and Community Trust Bank.

According to Jane Higgins, the program's coordinator, the two businesses fund the program in hopes that the students who participate in it will go on in life and become great leaders. Higgins also says they feel as if the students are "investments to the community" in



photo by Audrey Burke

Shown above, William Crouch, president of Georgetown College, began the Mentorship Program after being mentored during his college years.

the sense that if they stay in Rockcastle, they'll only better it.

"It's probably been one of the better programs since I've been

here," Mr. Whitaker said. Mayor King agrees.

"I am so in awe of the program, she said "I love it."



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