

In the schools

LEAP Forward awards scholarships

Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward Inc. (LEAP Forward Inc.) administers the Wallace Lorenzo Leeper Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship honors the memory of one of the most outstanding counselors who served at Calvert High School.

Eight \$500 scholarship awards were presented to students from Calvert, Huntingtown and Patuxent high schools, as well as Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

The scholarship reception was held on Aug. 9 at the Phillips House in Prince Frederick.

The program included words of encouragement from the 2008 scholarship recipient, Dynika Brooks (University of Maryland Baltimore County); memorial acknowledgement of Rev. Charles Lee Sr. by his son, Charles Lee Jr.; Leeper Scholarship award presentations by LEAP President Rhonda Thomas; remarks by the 2009 scholarship recipients; and a LEAP Forward poem shared by fourth-grader Dorien Minor. Students, board members, parents, friends and financial supporters then enjoyed good food and fellowship.

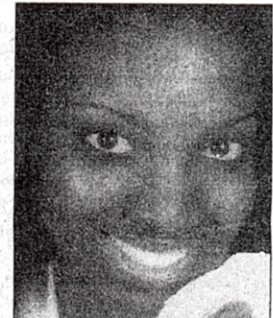
Awardees include **Jo'nel Roxanne Barnes**, a graduate of Calvert High who is attending Fayetteville State University and will major in physical education with a minor in business and entrepreneurship; **Jasmine Nicole Brown**, a graduate of Calvert High who is attending the College of Southern Maryland and will major in broadcasting and communications; **Kelsey Edwards**, a graduate of Patuxent High, is attending Washington College and majoring in behavioral neuroscience; **Michael Ellison**, a graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute who is attending Morgan State University and is majoring in electrical and computer engineering; **Jameela Hendricks**, a graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute who is attending Morgan State University and majoring in Architecture;



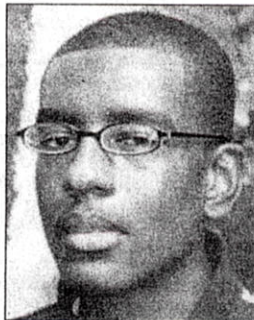
Jo'nel Barnes



Jasmine Brown



Kelsey Edwards



Michael Ellison



Jameela Hendricks



Nalynn Holland



Amealah Isley



Jay Little Jr.

Nalynn Y. Holland, a graduate of Huntingtown High who is attending Salisbury University and majoring in nursing; **Amealah S. Isley**, a graduate of Calvert High who is attending the College of Southern Maryland and majoring in nursing; and **Jay Little Jr.**, a graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute who is attending Pennsylvania State University and majoring in civil engineering.

Wallace Lorenzo Leeper graduated from the Richmond, Va., public schools and Virginia Union Univer-

sity with a bachelor of science in education.

He later received his master's degree in guidance from Indiana State University.

His teaching career started in Calvert County as a history and English teacher at Brooks High School. He continued to work in the school system as a coach and guidance counselor at Calvert High School and the Calvert Vocational Technical Center.

During the 1970s, Leeper was heavily involved with the Patuxent River Naval Air

Station engineering cooperative education program. More than 20 Calvert County students earned college engineering and technology degrees through this program under Leeper's guidance. LEAP Forward's founder and President Rhonda Thomas established LEAP Forward Inc. in Leeper's honor.

LEAP Forward promotes math and science career fields to minority youth. Its program encourages youth to learn, excel, achieve, perform, explore and rise.

LEAP Forward Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that was officially organized in 2001. Educational support services offered include math and science career interest seminars, college admissions assistance, scholarships, professional growth preparation and encouragement and motivation. For more information, go to www.leapforwardinc.org, or contact Thomas at rthomas@leapforwardinc.org.