

Higher Learning Institute Climbs to a Higher Level

By: Monica R. Neeley (March 2005)

The Higher Learning Institute (HLI) is midway through its fourth year! HLI has "enlarged its territory" and is doing bigger and better things than ever before. HLI is an innovative, informational, and fun program designed for the middle and high school students of Williams Memorial and the surrounding community. Established in 2002, the main objectives of this program are to use Godly principles to help youth become conscientious of his or her future and to pursue a higher education and a fulfilling career.

This year we have 73 registered students, which is more than DOUBLE last year's enrollment! To help with that great leap in numbers we also welcomed 9 new mentors, including Mr. Christopher Scott, Jr who is our first former HLI student to return as a mentor. The increase in participants is due in great part to our community outreaches, which lead to groups of students from St. John's CME Church of Winston-Salem, NC and Young Missionary Temple CME Church of Raleigh, NC enrolling in the program and traveling to High Point one Saturday a month.

Now housed in our church's new facilities, HLI has new resources to further enhance the students experience such as more space to conduct multiple group sessions, internet connections for special projects, and a HLI corner in the church library. The HLI Corner contains brochures from various colleges, SAT registration and financial aid forms, student assignments and information for mentors.

Come to <http://www.geocities.com/hlistep/HLI.htm> to visit us on the web! The HLI website has links for students and parents to various career resources, financial aid solutions, scholarships, enrichment programs such as summer programs and internships, and photo galleries of past HLI events. The website can also be accessed through the church website (go to www.williamsmemorialcme.com and click on "What's New?").

Though the last session is on May 21, 2005, the students have many more activities to come. There will be a Graduation ceremony held on Sunday, June 12, 2005, along with plans for a career Shadow Day, a Parent Workshop, campus tours, and a Back to School Pool party in late August.