



Issue 4
Fall 2010

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

STUDENTS PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW

Lamar County Schools named as ‘Value Added Schools’ in Mississippi

Four Lamar County Schools have been recognized at the recent statewide conference of the Program of Research and Evaluation of Public Schools (PREPS) with the prestigious “Value Added Schools” designation. The award recognizes “Value Added Schools” for performing significantly better than other schools with comparable socio-economic circumstances, based on accountability data analysis.

The PREPS “Value Added Awards” for 2010 include the following:

SATP Algebra I, Oak Grove Middle Accepted by Tess Smith, Principal

SATP Algebra I, Purvis Middle Accepted by Jackie Cuevas, Principal

SATP Algebra I Sumrall Middle Accepted by Jamie Jones, Principal

SATP U.S. History Oak Grove High School Accepted by Helen Price, Assistant Principal

Lamar County also accepted a “PREPS Involvement Award”, which was accepted by Carolyn Adams, Lamar County Assistant Superintendent for Academic Education. This award is given to school districts in recognition of significant involvement in PREPS programs and activities. The award recipients have had the highest percentage of their teachers and administrators participate in PREPS sponsored professional development opportunities and other programs and activities during the past year.

PREPS is a private non-profit consortium of school districts whose purpose is to develop and implement educational products and services that help manage and support districts’ efforts to demonstrate improvement in their instructional programs. Collaboration among member districts enables each district to benefit from the development of products and services that no single district is capable of developing alone. The awards were presented at the annual PREPS conference, which was held last month in Jackson.

“Lamar County is proud of these four schools for this coveted academic award,” Dr. Ben Burnett, LCSD Superintendent of Schools, said. “Every day our staff works incredibly hard to meet the high standards set by our community, and these awards show that these efforts are paying off.”

Last year LCSD received two ‘Value Added Awards’. The Value Added Award program began in 1997 to recognize stand-out schools for academic performance, using classifications determined by the State Department of Education under the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System and school socio-economic indicators.