

Beauty school celebrating 4th commencement

By *Lés Pierres Streater*
Sentinel-Voice

An enthusiastic group of family members and well-wishers gathered at the Expertise School of Beauty to celebrate the fourth annual graduating class to complete the course. Twenty-two graduate students were recognized in the June 26 ceremony because they completed 1,800 hours of class and salon training in cosmetology over a ten-month period.

The event was moderated by Kim Bailey-Tureaud, small business development specialist and KCEP-FM 88.1 radio show host, who told the graduates that she understood the sacrifices, long hours and efforts undertaken by them to finish their studies and finally graduate. She also thanked them for their vision of wanting to become entrepreneurs within the community and eventually establishing local business salons to benefit the neighborhood.

Lawrence Weekly, Las Vegas City Councilman of



The graduating class of the Expertise School of Beauty: (L to R, top) Christina Lewis, Felicia Gulley, LaTasha Barnes, Camilla Lott, Frenchiena Monroe, Jason Boyd, Nancy Moosman, Rontina Manuel, Ronnika Oliver, Vera Jackson, Faith Buchanon and NaTasha Sanders. Seated is staff and management (L to R) Tarsha Hillman, Cheryl McElroy, Gwen Chaney-Braimoh, Willia Chaney, Ora Mason, Kathy Pearson-Woods, Dorothy Muhammad and Tracey Copeland.

Ward 5 where the school is located, served as the keynote speaker and offered words of encouragement to the graduates.

"Let me first say something about the Expertise family... I think what they bring to this community is truly a blessing. To have an

avenue, such as this, teaching cosmetology and inspiring others — who look just like you — to be successful... [Owners and instructors] that you can relate to and that can help you is great and makes this journey a whole lot easier. But what I think is more important is

that the women who work here are inspiring, and they have been putting it down for a long time; they are pillars in this community."

He continued, "Each of you overcame the naysayers. No one said that it was going to be easy and that there wouldn't be stumbling

blocks along the way. But you just pray about those situations, and you continue to go forward. As Kirk Franklin says, there's a blessing in the storm. You just need to hold on and hold out, help is on the way."

Words of support and encouragement were also

shared by Ora Mason and Cheryl McElroy, staff members of Expertise. Following that, each of the graduates was introduced to the audience.

The graduates included: Shellena Branch, Christina Lewis, Felicia Gulley, LaTasha Barnes, Monique Lewis, Carmilla Lott, Tamaya Armstrong, Frenchiena Monroe, Donnisha Rhone, Candice Martin, Ronnika Oliver, Nina Jones, Carmen Bass, Kimberly Collins, Betty Vega, Rotina Manuel, Tebecca Smith, NaTasha Sanders, Faith Buchanon, Jason Boyd, Nancy Moosman, and Vera Jackson.

Expertise co-founders and directors, Willia Chaney and Gwen Chaney-Braimoh, addressed the graduates and thanked them for all of their efforts in making this class successful.

Commenting further, Chaney said, "One of the things that we are doing is giving back to the community and hoping that these (See *Expertise, Page 3*)

Program links college graduates with schools that need them

By *Tasha Pope*
Sentinel-Voice

The mission to make a difference in the community and lead students to a brighter future is the purpose for the Teach for America organization. The organization is a national corps of outstanding college graduates that devote two years to teaching in low-income urban and rural communities.

"Everyone you touch, it will make a difference in their lives," said Dr. George Ann Rice, associate superintendent for the Clark County School District, while she was looking at the 2005-2006 recruits.

Teach for America is a national program that has been in existence since 1990 and was expanded to Las Vegas last August. Initially, 56 teachers were placed in 30 schools throughout the northeast and east regions of the school district. That number has grown to 75 this year, and teachers have been assigned to Title I (low income) schools.

The founder of Teach for America is Wendy Kopp who formulated the idea in her years at Princeton and wanted a "national teacher corps" similar to a Peace Corps, but for teachers. Kopp wanted to appeal to thou-

sands of top college graduates to devote two years to teaching at schools with disadvantaged students in troubled areas rather than enter the corporate world or grad school right after college.

Teachforamerica.org explains the mission: "...to build the movement to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting some of our nation's most promising future leaders in the effort."

"We place corps members where they prefer to go. Ninety-nine percent of our corps members go to a place they either highly prefer or prefer... because we know they'll be successful in a place that they want to be," said Chuck Salter, executive director for Teach for America locally.

The starting salary for grads is \$28,491, with a \$2,000 signing bonus after 30 days. Rice reinforced her true motivation as she shared her monthly income with the soon to be teachers.

Many of the corps member's goals are to make a positive difference in the community.

"I was one of those people who grew up saying 'I want to change the world one day. I want to make a difference.' When I found Teach for

America I said this is the best way," said Kristen Davis, a 2005 Teach for America recruit.

After the two year stint, many teachers attain leadership roles in the educational field as they continue to work for educational equality for

all students. Currently there are 10,000 alumni who are already starting schools, becoming principals and district administrators, as well as winning accolades as teachers.

"Everything is built on education in this country, so

why not get down there and make a difference there," Davis said.

The corps members are determined to help students gain success in their studies, as well as their everyday lives. Mayor Goodman recognized the group's dedica-

tion. "I applaud you for choosing your profession... Many people don't understand what it means to be a teacher," said Goodman.

Since induction into the Clark County School Dis- (See *Teachers, Page 6*)

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