Salem Academy and College Cherokee Commemoration

Submitted by Kelly Jo Morrison, Salem College

Salem Academy and College hosted a Cherokee Commemoration ceremony on Saturday, October 22, 2022. A plaque honoring the thirteen Cherokee girls who attended Salem in the 19th century was dedicated in the courtyard of South Residence Hall, the original building where boarding students lived.

Joining the Salem Academy and College community for the plaque dedication and unveiling ceremony was Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

2022 Fall Newsletter

Chuck Hoskin Jr., First Lady January Hoskin and daughter Jasmine Hoskin, Jack Baker, President of the National Trail of Tears Association, The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President of the Southern Province Provincial Elders’ Conference, representatives of the Cherokee Nation and descendants of the Cherokee students who attended Salem.

The commemoration day included exhibits of relevant historic documents and artifacts throughout the campus of Salem Academy and College, Old Salem Museum and Gardens, the Moravian Archives and God’s Acre.

National League of Cities Conference

by Asia Melton, WSSU

The National League of Cities hosted a Success National Summit Convention on October 12-14, 2022 in Washington DC. The four main meeting objectives were 1. Convening city leaders to identify and share the best practices for promoting workforce success 2. Share city strategies to meet the basic needs of students 3. Elevate the role of municipal leadership 4. Inspire cross-sector teams for further action to promote success. The information I learned in these meetings gave me a passion to improve both my school and the workplace to create a better experience for future students.

This convention not only placed outstanding ideas in our ears to multiply students attending college in our area, but it forced us to look between the lines to get the best of the best for students. For example, off-campus student housing, financial stability plans, food voucher plans, and more. All of these factors play roles in the decision-making of students wanting to attend college or not. The main factor for students in the minority communities not attending college is that they have to provide for a family starting at a young age that will not allow them to attend college due to expenses. So, in order for our community to grow and produce success in all aspects of life,
Course Changes at Forsyth Technical Community College

by Nathan Hoang, FTCC

At Forsyth Technical Community College, both eight-week and fifteen-week courses are offered. As time has passed, eight-week courses have been added as an option for many classes over the fifteen-week. In recent discussion groups held in early November, students had differing views regarding the course offerings. On one hand, students stated that it was beneficial because it helped them finish their studies quicker. One student stated that many classes felt like they were dragged out because there were only a few assignments each week.

However, others believed that it was too fast paced for them to perform at their best. They struggled to have their work-life balance due to the amount of work assigned daily. Most of the time there were tests every week, and students had to cram. Although a number of students oppose the idea of eight-week courses, it has undoubtedly given students the opportunity to explore the fast-paced learning style. From the input of the students, the school looks to improve the quality of education and satisfy the needs of students.

Student Race Relations Forum

by Ocir Black, FTCC

As a Forsyth Tech Early College Student, I was very interested in the High School Race Relations Forum that took place on September 29th, 2022. During this time, it encouraged high school students to take part in a discussion about the state of race relations from the view of high schoolers. From the words of Wanda Allen-Abraha, “This forum gages the perspectives and insights of the young people in our community about race relations and what they’re seeing and experiencing.” Along with the high school students, there were different committee members and chairpersons present during this conversation. Mayor Pro-Tempore, DD Adams said a few words of encouragement to the students before the start of the panel. As well as Commissioner Kerry Wiggins who is the Chair of the Student Relations Committee spoke to the students. Commissioner Wiggins wanted the students involved to be encouraged with this conversation as it will say “What can the adults do to make the community better?” Lastly, the WSFCS Superintendent Tricia McManus showed her support for her students in this conversation to be as transparent as possible.

After introducing all the students and school representatives, the moderators started introducing the questions. Several questions focused on diversity and how they were or weren’t present in some schools. One student, Jade Horne, described her experience at Atkins high school and how in her classes she is around many students who are from various backgrounds. Another student, Mary Horton, talked about her experience with diversity as a student that attends Mt. Tabor and Career Center. Horton said how she noticed how there was more diversity at her home school, Mt. Tabor, than at Career Center. Another student, Amarie Johnson, talked about his experience at Paisley, and how he noticed that even though Paisley is an IB school, there aren’t a lot of international students at the school, instead there are only a couple of major groups of students there.

One topic that most students could agree on is the fact that their schools don’t really promote a conversation about race. The only time conversations happen in their schools is in certain classes that involve these conversations in the curriculum. The classes that most students said that they had these conversations were AP Language Arts and History. In these classes, students have discussions and take an in-depth look at race and how this issue has grown to a global scale rapidly. Having students of all races and ethnicities in these conversations has really opened the eyes of a lot of students to the events that are taking place around them.

Giving high school students the space to open up about topics that are important to them is the best way to identify problems in school systems and find the best way to fix them for future generations. It will also better their own environments because change will be implemented and these students will be the real change-makers in schools.