

Six Towns County students will pay it forward as teachers



Photo by Mark Smith

Towns County High School seniors Taralee Arrowood, Zandra Churchill, Sadie Eller, Bradley Benson, Megan Wallace and Breanna Stripling during Georgia Future Educators Signing Day on Tuesday, May 8.

By Mark Smith
Towns County Herald Staff Writer

As the Towns County High School Class of 2018 sets its sights on what comes next, six of these seniors have decided to follow in the footsteps of their teachers after graduation on May 18.

These six future teachers are: Taralee Arrowood, Bradley Benson, Zandra Churchill, Sadie Eller, Breanna Stripling and Megan Wallace.

School administrators recognized these teacher-bound students during a reception for Georgia Future Educators Signing Day on Tuesday, May 8, inside the school media center.

The purpose of Future Educators Signing Day is to recognize students who are planning to pursue careers in education, Towns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Darren Berrong said, adding that it's just as important to celebrate teacher signings as sports scholarships.

Dr. Berrong told the six students gathered at the reception that being a teacher is no easy task, but that the fulfillment of seeing their influence on students' successes will be well worth any challenges they may face.

"Nothing makes me happier than to sit at a board meeting and recommend a student that graduated from TCHS as an educator here at Towns County," said Dr. Berrong.

The superintendent highlighted the example of TCHS alumna Allison Arnold, who has been successful in her pursuit of a teaching career. Arnold, the Towns County band teacher, is in her first year with the school system.

"Education is a fantastic opportunity for you - it's a great career," said Dr. Berrong. "I look forward to hiring every single one of you in the future."

Continued Berrong: "It's important that we have teachers that understand this community and understand our students."

To commemorate the occa-

sion, the six seniors came together in the reception for a signing ceremony led by Dr. Berrong.

"By signing this certificate of commitment, you're committing to improve the quality of education for students in the state of Georgia," said Dr. Berrong, reading from a statement prepared for the ceremony.

Following the formal signing, seniors' families joined them for pictures, congratulations and refreshments.

When asked why they had chosen to go into the field of education, several of the students said they wanted to help guide others as their teachers had done for them.

School Counselor Lana Parker also spoke during the event, saying that she and her colleagues were "excited, as educators ourselves, that they have chosen this profession."

For her part, TCHS Principal Dr. Connie Hobbs said she was very proud of her students and their chosen career paths.

"I taught every one of them

education to want to pursue that in their future."

Georgia Future Educators Signing Day is supported by the State School Superintendent's Office, Division of Career and Technical Education, Georgia Early

Childhood Education Foundation, and Georgia's colleges and universities, according to the Georgia Department of Education.

This is the second year that Towns County High has participated in the program.



Photo by Mark Smith

Future educators with their families during the May 8 reception.

Graduation...from Page 1A



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

Kaine Hoffman, Scott Cupit and Jeremy Mays will serve their country in the U.S. Armed Forces following graduation.



Photo by Lowell Nicholson

TCHS seniors Andy Chambers, Brooke Barrett, Logan Cowart and Harold Cox will attend college on sports scholarships. Pictured here with Principal Connie Hobbs.

Guido, Antonio Hernandez, Sara Hobbs, Kaine Hoffman, Xavier Hogsed, Emerald Hunley, Alyssa Hunter, Jordan Hyatt, Hunter Ingram, Madelyn Katczel, Cassandra Kelly, Dalton Key, Zachary Kimsey, Aaron King, Jessika Knapp, Isaiah Kuykendall, Cassady Lampert, Cole

Ledford, Hannah Martinez, Morgan Matheson, Jeremy Mays, Madison McClure, Jeremy McFalls, Jasmine Miranda, Lydia Moss, Taylor Osborn, Jacob Owenby, Sophia Parsons, Sara Perry, Evan Phillips, Caden Pyrlík, Cason Shook, William Shook, Mackenzie Smith, Hayley

Stowers, Breanna Stripling, Kyra Tallent, Mariah Thurman, Alexis Turner, Megan Wallace, Hayden Walters, Benjamin Webb, Jackson Wheeler, Hannah Whitehead, Samuel Williams, Joel Woodward, Luke Woody and Daniel Youngblood.