

Rotarians Help J.E.B. Stuart Seniors Focus on Ethics

by Ronald Sturman, Communications Chair, Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads

Distinguishing right behavior from inappropriate behavior was the major item on the agenda for the J.E.B. Stuart High School senior class at the school's first annual Senior Ethics Day, on April 11, 2008.



DG Travis and BXRC President Su Yong Min bestowed Teacher of the Year Award on Eric Welch from J.E.B. Stuart High School. Molly Lord (not pictured), Social Studies teacher and coach for speech contest candidate for the District Speech Contest, also received an award.

It was a full-day event conducted by the school in partnership with the Rotary Club of Bailey's Crossroads, The Analysis Corporation (TAC) and the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). John Holtzclaw, a criminal attorney and a member of the Rotary club, was the keynote speaker. He observed how ethics, values and morality should be part of our decision making and how the day's discussion about ethics may provide the senior class with lessons they can carry with them throughout their lives. Good judgment should be cultivated at a very young age. "Many times, people react before reflecting on the consequences," he said. They pay the price for those bad judgments. Holtzclaw urged the seniors to appreciate the importance of values in their decision-making. He asked them to consider the Four-Way Test that Rotary members apply to things they think, say, or do: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? The seniors discussed four different ethical dilemmas in small group sessions facilitated by members of the school staff, the Rotary club members and TAC, and DISA employees. The concluding activity was a plenary session in the school auditorium where student teams read their winning responses to the various ethical dilemma scenarios.