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PRESS RELEASE

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Photos: Courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

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Local High School Hosts College and Career Day

By Lynn K. Loyd

Members of Hemet's Tahquitz High School and the Community Outreach Ministry participated in the school's first College and Career Kick Off event in October. The school's College and Career Counselor Dr. LaVerne Williams-Schoonover invited Dr. Mona Davies and her husband Bob, cofounders of Community Outreach Ministry to the event that included meeting with the students during lunch and presentations to ninety science students on careers in demand and engineering internship opportunities. The Davies founded their nonprofit organization in 2000; an organization dedicated to improving the lives of boys and girls impacted by parental incarceration. Our mentor Jacori Neal who also participated in the event has

overcome multiple risk factors, is resilient and ambitious. He is now attending college and still finds the time to serve as a robotics mentor with our organization to at-risk youth during our “Gearing Up For STEM” Mentor Protégé Workshops.

“This is our first College Kick Off event since coming back from the pandemic,” Williams-Schoonover said in an email. “We currently have 1700 students at our school. We are using a platform to track students’ applications to college called CCGi,” she added as she described the California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI); a system that provides data and planning infrastructure to increase the likelihood of placing high school students in college upon graduation.

In addition to information on careers in demand, Dr. Davies also discussed entry-level STEM positions available to high school graduates in southwest Riverside County. Dr. Davies also shared how students can earn community service credit towards graduation by volunteering at the upcoming Angel Tree Christmas Party as well as other year-round outreach events offered by Community Outreach Ministry. Bob Davies or “Coach Bob” described how his university education, engineering background, and credentials with the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) has enabled him to work in the aerospace industry on classified military programs as well as commercial aircraft in Saudi Arabia.

Jacori Neal a robotics enthusiast participated at the event with his grandmother Marilyn Brown who raised him. He talked about the positive role model Brown had been in his life. Neal attributed his engineering skills to his grandmother’s influence as he presented a demonstration of the Meccano Robots, he taught himself how to build. Neal is also a self-taught computer software technician and learned how to use his computer and cell phone to program robots. Now a Crafton Hills Community College student, Neal told students to stay focused on graduating

from high school and creating a plan for their futures, adding that “you must be the change you want to see in the world.” Click here to see video <https://vimeo.com/640191620>. Thank you to Yolande Hill Photography and Ed Aguirre of Production Video for contributing photos and a video collage from this event.

For more information on Community Outreach Ministry contact us at 951-698-7650 or info@communityoutreachministry.org. We welcome you to visit us at www.communityoutreachministry.org. Your donations are giving at-risk kids a second chance to be winners and champions. To donate: text DONATE CHAMPIONS to 609- 212-0627, or <https://buy.chip-in.us/?nonprofitId=105451>.