



Two Estill County High School students (Abby Winkle and Kayla McKinney, front center) attended the CFES (College For Every Student) conference in Vermont. They are both members of the PALS program through GEAR UP so that's how they were selected to attend. Photo Submitted



The duck pond at West Irvine's carnival proved to be a popular attraction on Friday evening. Ducks are easier to pick up now that schools don't use water in the duck pond.



There was a long line for face painting at the West Irvine carnival even though there were a lot of adults painting faces at the same time.

## Berea Educators Help Close the Skills Gap for Low-Income Students at Conference

Twenty-seven educators and 17 students from Berea Gear-Up participated in the College For Every Student National Conference on October 29-30 in Burlington, Vermont, and shared best practices they are implementing to ensure students are college and 21st century career ready.

During his opening remarks, CFES President & CEO Rick Dalton addressed the 350 students, K-16 educators, and corporate partners. "You are not tomorrow's leaders...you are today's leaders."

Attendees were motivated by the presentations of two keynote speakers: Lucille O'Neal, author and mother of NBA great Shaquille O'Neal, and Dr. Calvin Mackie, founder of STEMNOLA, an organization dedicated to encouraging young people to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) study.

Both O'Neal and Mackie struck similar chords: hope transforms lives and hope is the answer; focus on education, which is a key enabler of great outcomes; you must have a dream, but you've got to put in the work to achieve it; and college IS for every student.

In a series of 18 workshops, panel discussions and roundtables, the CFES National Conference explored ways to Close the Skills Gap: Ensuring that Low-Income Students are College & Career Ready.

In one workshop, Steve Jones, Service Coordinator for Berea Gear-Up, spoke about the importance of early college and career awareness and his success with the implementing the CFES program in K-8 schools.

Service Coordinator Terry Wilson shared his success with Skype mentoring. "Being from rural Appalachia, we are limited in our access to college and career professionals," he stated. "Skype

has given our students the opportunity to be mentored by college students from universities like Harvard."

The 17 Berea Scholars were joined by 40 other Scholars from around the country and participated in sessions on leadership, resilience, and other "Essential Skills" that CFES has shown helps students become college and career ready.

"I really enjoyed the college tours," said Chris Hall, a CFES Scholar and PALS student. "During the conference, the CFES staff took us to visit Champlain Community College and Saint Michael's College."

Since 1991, CFES has helped more than 100,000 mostly low-income students in more than 700 K-12 urban and rural schools improve academic achieve-

ment, attain the "Essential Skills," and ultimately graduate from high school and succeed in college.

In closing the conference, CFES Program Director Hasan Davis electrified the audience.

"We in CFES are 'hope dealers,'" he concluded. "CFES is a brave, bold idea. We level the playing field so that college is indeed for every student."

## #SHOPSMALL this Holiday Season

by showing your love and support to the following local businesses for

**SMALL BUSINESS | NOV SATURDAY | 28**  
9A.M. - 4P.M.

Make sure to stop by these local businesses, to not only help boost your local economy, but for your chance to win some amazing door prizes! Don't forget to #SHOPSMALL on Saturday, November 28.

**Steam Engine Pizza Pub**  
\$25 Gift Certificate

**Honchell's**  
\$25 Gift Certificate

**Rockhouse Bar & Grill**  
\$25 gift certificate

**D&J True Value**  
T-shirts & hats and 2 pair of Bogs boots; Store specials including a drawing for a Husqvarna & Stihl blower

**Thyme on Broadway**  
Coffee mug & T-shirt

**Pickers Paradise**  
(2) Gift Baskets

**Little Caesar's Pizza**  
Gift Basket with free pizza coupons

**Meade's Do It Center**  
\$50 Gift Certificate

**Citizens Voice & Times**  
\$25 Gift Card - Entry forms and box will be located at The Mike's Travel

**Ravenna Florist & Greenhouse**  
Mercury Glass Pine Cone Lights

**Silo Mill Gift Shop**  
Candleberry Hot Maple Toddy Candle

**Owlhead's Grocery**  
5lb Candy Cane

**Citizens Guaranty Bank**  
(4) \$25 gift certificates to spend at a local Estill County business & CGB coffee mug (entry forms and box will be located at The Mike's Travel)

**WSKV 104.9**  
(2) Thrillsville passes (\$80 value) visit [www.thrillsville.org](http://www.thrillsville.org) (entry forms and box will be located at EDA Office 177 Broadway Irvine)

**Appalachian Wireless**  
(2) \$50 gift cards (entry forms and box will be located at EDA Office 177 Broadway Irvine)

**The Mikes Travel**  
Travel bags, bottles & coolies



A young man showed his determination at West Irvine's dark toss. The boy tossed three darks to burst three balloons. Prizes were awarded according to the number of balloons burst.

