

Press Release



Boys and Girls Homes President Gary Faircloth, Victoria Rangel, a resident of the Homes, and former resident and current UNC-Wilmington student Lawrence Smith pose with a plaque denoting the Homes receipt of the distinctive UNC Wilmington's Watson School of Education 2009 Razor Walker Award at the April 20 award ceremony.

Boys and Girls Homes receives UNCW's Watson School of Education Razor Walker Award

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina was among six distinguished recipients of the coveted UNC Wilmington's Watson School of Education's Razor Walker Awards on April 20, 2009 in ceremonies held in the Burney Center on the campus of UNCW. The award was presented to Boys and Girls Homes President Gary Faircloth by Tyrone Rowell of UNCW for educational achievement. Other 2009 recipients of the award included Ms. Barbara Buechler, administrator of the Betty H. Cameron Women's and Children's Hospital at New Hanover Regional Hospital in the area of medicine; Cedric Dickerson of Cedric Dickerson State Farm Insurance Agency in Wilmington for public

service; Dr. James Howard and Ann Goodnight of SAS for philanthropy, Superintendent Dr. R. Gene Hales of the Clinton City Schools for educational administration; and Judge Howard Manning (noted for his rulings in the 1997 case Leandro vs. the State of North Carolina) for law.

The 2009 ceremonies marked the seventeenth annual presentation of the awards given for distinguished service to the children and youth of North Carolina. The award exemplifies vision, tenacity, courage, and sacrifice by an individual or agency on behalf of children and youth. Watson School of Education Dean Cathy Barlow notes that “The award recognizes those who have made a significant difference in the lives of children and youth and often requires them to ‘walk the razor’s edge.’ Razor Walkers have the vision to identify a need, the tenacity to work tirelessly until it is met, the courage to challenge the way things have always been done and the willingness to make their own professional and personal sacrifices in service to others.” An excerpt from the Homes application for the award reads *“The leadership of this organization knew that a stable home and education was the last hope for the young people cared for by the Homes. For more than 50 years, it has clothed, fed, housed, counseled and educated more than 3500 young North Carolinians. In its early formation, the trustees of the Homes adopted a creed stating that ‘after we provide food, shelter, clothing and love, the best thing we can do for a child is to give him or her a sound, basic education.’ Providing quality education continues to be a primary element in the Homes’ array of services for the children, one that continues beyond high school in a commitment to support those with the desire and ability in their pursuit of a college degree. Since 1967, more than 100 former residents*

have obtained bachelor's degrees or higher and many more have attended technical and community colleges.”

Speaking on behalf of the Homes, President Faircloth said “I am so honored and humbled to receive this very distinguished Razor Walker Award on behalf of the children and staff of Boys and Girls Homes. I thank Dr. Rosemary DePaolo, Chancellor of UNC-W and Dr. Cathy Barlow, Dean of the Watson School of Education for recognizing the extraordinary efforts of this year’s recipients of the award for their services to children and youth. At Boys and Girls Homes we realize what an impact a quality education will have on the lives of the children who come into our care. As a former resident, I can attest to the impact the educational opportunities I received while living at the Homes had on my life. We are so appreciative of the support our children receive from the Columbus County Schools and from the various colleges and universities like UNC-Wilmington.”