

# SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## SSU Students Attend Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 39th Annual Legislative Conference



Pictured left to right are: Justin Anderson, Bianca Rainwater, Jeff Johnson, Correspondent, Black Entertainment Television, Deniscia Scott, and Brittany Jester

**By: Bianca Rainwater, Tribune Student Intern, Savannah State University**

Five seniors, accompanied by an advisor, traveled to the nation's capital for the 39th annual legislative conference hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

The conference was held September 23, 2009 through September 26, 2009, with the students attending three days.

The theme for this year's conference was "Reinvest...Rebuild...Renew." The theme is a commitment to continue working towards a more perfect union in government. It addresses many challenges the nation is facing and seeks to ensure that no community is left behind when progress happens.

The conference featured over 70 sessions and many networking receptions. The opening panel discussion addressed poverty and pathways out. Panelists addressed how poverty is defined, federal solutions, and the CBCF's responsibilities. Marian Wright Edelman, children's activist, asserted the belief that "we don't have a money problem, we have a priority and values problem, here in America."

The audience was encouraged to join the fight against poverty and demand the federal government take action.

The following days of the conference featured more discussions on subjects as diverse as economic recovery, African Diaspora, environmental responsibility and co-curricular activities.

Panelists for these discussions included state representatives, actors, media professionals, and the like. The students were granted access to in-depth discussions on current and future legislation while hearing the viewpoints of experts in different subject areas.

The students were selected to attend as members of the press. Justin Anderson, Brittany Jester, and Kareem McMichael were representatives of Tiger Eye News, a campus newscast.

Bianca Rainwater and Deniscia Scott represented The Tiger's Roar, student newspaper. Sonya Howard, who serves as the advisor for both organizations, accompanied the students.

Since the students went as members of the press they were afforded the opportunity to interview many of the panelists. The students recorded interviews with

authors, congress members, company executives, and other participants. Donna Edwards, congress member, Neil Seldman, waste company executive and Bernadette Stanis, actor and author were among those interviewed.

Those and others interviews will be aired on channel 96 and featured at [www.tigersroar.com](http://www.tigersroar.com)

The CBCF was established in 1976 with the goal of advancing the global black community through the development of leaders, informing policy, and educating the public. It has become affectionately known as "the conscience of the congress" because of its commitment to every community and the country as a whole. Today it tackles issues such as unemployment, home foreclosure, and education disparities. The foundation also offers scholarships, internships, fellowships and leadership programs to facilitate the success of young people.

## Local Students Named National Achievement Scholarship Semi-Finalists



**Kirah Nelson**

Two SCCPSS students have been named National Achievement Scholarship semi-finalists. Rebecca J. Chester and Kirah J. Nelson are both seniors at Savannah Arts Academy.

Chester and Nelson join the ranks of more than 1,600 African American high school seniors who have been selected as semifinalists



**Rebecca Chester**

in the 46th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program.

These scholastically talented students now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth some \$2.6 million, to be awarded in April.

More than 160,000 high school juniors from all parts of the United States requested consideration in the 2010 National Achievement Scholarship Program when they took the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Semifinalists were designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the states that make up each region.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program was initiated in 1964 to recognize academically promising African American students throughout the nation and to provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding program participants.

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## Walker to Keynote Carver Village-Heights Annual Banquet



**Willie J. Walker**  
Attorney Willie James

Walker will serve as the keynote speaker for the Carver Village-Heights 27th Annual Banquet on Friday, October 23, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Con-Ed Banquet Room, 714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Walker is a native of Savannah, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie James Walker.

The donation for this event is \$20.00.

For reservations, please call Dorothy Barnes-Pelote at 232-4659.

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