

# On track toward the future

## Students wind up city job program

By Chris Sykes  
Staff Writer

The completion of the second year of the city's Extended Day Youth Job Readiness Program was celebrated last week during a ceremony in Orange High School.

The program for high school students was created under the direction of Keith Pressey, manager of the Division of Recreation.

"The YJRP program was a joint effort by the city and the Orange Board of Education," said Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. "The goal of the YJRP program is to give Orange students the job-readiness training and life skills needed to help their transition from high school students to adults. The program focuses on job training and business etiquette as well as encouraging college or vocational training."

Hawkins said the program seeks to motivate students to set goals for themselves and to work toward achieving them. He said the staff attempts to give students the ideas and information needed to be responsible and productive adults.



Photo Courtesy City of Orange

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr., middle, third from left, and Recreation Manager Keith Pressey, left, as well as staff with the Orange School District presented awards for the Youth Job Readiness Program during a ceremony last week.

The subjects included employment-related issues, sexual harassment in the workplace, finances, HIV and sexual awareness, drug abuse and gang violence, and secondary education.

"Many of the students were actually employed during the program and many more went on actual interviews and honed their job-seeking and networking skills

learned in the program," Hawkins said. "Over the summer, the students will continue to seek jobs and prepare for college and vocational education."

Hawkins presented the Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. Awards to Erick Noncius and Naika Davdin, who were selected as the outstanding male and female participants. The James Wolfe Civic Award was

presented to Flore Dorcelian; the Most Improved Students Awards went to Isaiah Carter and Miosha Henryl.

Among the program coordinators were Weldon Montague III, re-entry specialist for state Department of Labor; substance abuse counselor Thomas Wright, business consultant Gregory Bryant; and Orange High teacher Linda Siddiq.