

'Central' figures in spotlight for today

Mar 21, 2009



Remembering Adriel D. Williams today:

He would have turned 60 on Friday.

A stroke took Mr. Williams out of this world on Feb. 29, 2008, but before that he was a big-time supporter of YO:Durham, or Year of Opportunity for Durham Teens, an extension of Durham Congregations In Action, according to information provided by YO:Durham program director Susan Blackmon. Mr. Williams would offer advice and direction to YO:Durham students.

A graduate of N.C. Central University, Mr. Williams was known as someone who understood the value of education and wanted to help students as much as he could. There was a banquet scheduled this past Friday in Mr. Williams' honor. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Adriel D. Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Williams was known for his zest for life. He loved to chat it up with people. The guy never met a stranger.

Plus, Mr. Williams had skills as both a handyman and a landscaper. He liked to fish and hunt, and he had a thing for yard sales and for both cooking and feeding folks.

CW22/MyRDC marketing director Donna-maria Harris wants you to know that today's the last day for teens ages 14-19 to audition for TeenFest 2K9. Show 'em what you got from 1-4 p.m. at Northern High School. The underlying message of the performances must speak against both violence and substance abuse.

The top 10 acts will be eligible to compete for \$1,750 in cash prizes on April 4 at N.C. Central University. To get a registration form, log on to www.raleighcw.com or www.myrdctv.com.

Durham's DeWarren K. Langley spoke about public service and effective leadership when he gave the opening address at the 39th session of the Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA) banquet on March 13 at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in downtown Raleigh.

"Public service and leadership go hand in hand in that both require putting other people first. To lead people, we would do well to check our own egos at the door and focus on what is best for others and our community," Langley said. "Service must be an integral part of our lives, not something we practice if we have extra time or if the mood strikes us or if our schedule permits or if it happens to be convenient. We must consider it an obligation and a responsibility, something we owe society."

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Anyway, patterned after the N.C. General Assembly, YLA is a mock legislative session wherein high school youths voice their opinions and vote on issues concerning local and state government. The most recent session dealt with issues including legalizing civil unions and legalizing prostitution in private places.

When Langley was a student at Jordan High School, he was a delegate to the 32nd session of the YLA. Now he's in law school at NCCU.

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