



Early College Gives Back

By Evan Mang

Davie County Early College High School students have made it their goal this year to give back to their local community. Students are doing so by participating in school-wide service events throughout the course of the year. Students kicked off these events last Friday, September 9th, with a free car wash at the DCCC Davie campus, cleaning sections of the highway by picking up litter on 601 and Deadmon Road through the Adopt-a-Highway program, and beautifying the DCCC main campus and Rich Park. These hands-on activities give every student a chance to be of service to their community in a fun and collaborative environment. Junior Karla Gamez, who participated in the Adopt-a-Highway activity, said, "I like that we were able to help clean up instead of all the trash being there." Sophomore Cristal Romero, who helped clean up Rich Park, said, "I like that I got to hang out with friends while helping the community."

In the past, all Early College students have engaged in individual service projects; however, this year we are adding a school-wide service component and are giving students the opportunity to work together as a school to give back to the community. Taking part in group service projects involves students in team building, allowing them to grow closer with their classmates and develop social and leadership skills. Principal Denise Absher said, "There were three ideas in starting school-wide community service: to purposefully give back to our community that has provided so much for us at the Early College, for adults and students to come together and be able to learn and discover how to give meaningful and beneficial service to others, and to allow students across grade levels to build relationships and grow together."

Overall the service events were a big success. Rustin Harpe, town of Mocksville, who coordinated the students' activities at Rich Park, said, "We enjoyed having them. I think most of the kids enjoyed it." These acts of service will continue throughout the rest of the year. If you are interested in taking advantage of the Early College's free car wash, the next date will be Friday, September 23rd, from 12:45-2:45 at the DCCC Davie campus across the street from Davie High School.