

# NEIGHBORS

## MVTHS Area Vocation Center makes history with CNA graduation

Staff Report

When the Mt. Vernon Area Vocational Center hosted its annual CNA graduation and Health Occupations Students of America awards ceremony on May 18, it also closed out a historic year for health occupations.

Not only did 30 students graduate after meeting requirements for the CNA dual credit course through Rend Lake College — the most in the history of the program — but 19 students received certificates for service. In addition, 24 pins were given for 50 to 99 service-hour points, three pins were given for 100 to 149 service-hour points and two pins were given for 200 or more service-hour points, according to information from HOSA.

"To the CNA class of 2009, it has been a very interesting year!" stated Lauren Warren Ing, the CNA instructor, in a HOSA newsletter. "I hope you have enjoyed this year. Always remember, medicine is a high calling. Don't ever forget you have people's lives in



Thirty Mt. Vernon Township High School students recently participated in a candle lighting ceremony and recited the Nightingale Pledge during the annual CNA graduation, hosted by the Mt. Vernon Area Vocational Center. The Class of 2009 is the largest class in the school's history of the program. SUBMITTED PHOTO

your hands. You have the opportunity to be someone's hero. You have taught me more than I could ever teach you this year."

Ing provided the farewell address during graduation and pinning ceremonies and sang "I Hope You Dance" as students walked in during the processional. HOSA graduate and St. Mary's

Good Samaritan Director of Surgery Jennifer Holloway was the keynote speaker. Following remarks by Tammy Martin, MVTHS health occupations instructor, HOSA president Charolette Clark also addressed the group.

Students recited the Nightingale Pledge which states:

"I solemnly pledge

myself before God and in the presence of this assembly;

To pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully;

I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous; I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession, and I will hold in confidence all personal

matters committed to my keeping;

With loyalty I will endeavor to aid the health care team in their work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

Recognized as the 2009 Student of the Year was Charolette Clark; second place went to Haylee Whitlock; and third place went to Katlin Hicks, who

also took top academic honors with "a nearly perfect average," information states.

During the May 18 ceremonies, HOSA also recognized their 2008-2009 officers, Charolette Clark, president; Aquoya Cantley, vice president; Bria Campbell, secretary; Kymber Tucker, treasurer; Lataya Smith, reporter; Miranda Smith and Leah Sherman, historians; and Kashira Hawkins, parliamentarian.

The 2009-2010 officers are Morgan Bozarth, president; Leah Sherman, vice president; Katlin Hicks, secretary; and Jessica Morgan, treasurer.

The 2009 HOSA state competition team consisted of Elizabeth Clifton, Charolette Clark, Haylee Whitlock, Morgan Bozarth, Katlin Hicks and Leah Sherman.

Following the ceremony, a cake and punch reception was held in the cafeteria.

The HOSA organization is sponsored by Mrs. Tammy Martin and Mrs. Laura Ing.