

July 13, 2010

## ASU education major honored by Early Learning Center

A senior majoring in early childhood education was recently named the ASU Early Learning Center Student Teacher of the Year.

Monica Owens, a native of Jessup, Ga., and a 2006 graduate of Wayne County High School, was recognized as Student Teacher of the Year by the ASU Early Learning Center.

“Monica has done a great job at the center doing observation and hours,” said Jeannette Lucas, director of the ASU Early Learning Center. “She also did an exceptional job with her class project that included our pre-kindergarten students.”



Owens, who will begin student teaching at Lamar Reese Elementary school July 29, is on track to graduate from ASU in December. Her project, a play designed to encourage young children to become more interested in reading, gave the ELC students some additional educational benefits.

“We did a Tellabration that showed the kids different ways to get involved with reading,” Owens said. “We performed an adaptation of the tale of the ‘Three Little Pigs and the Wolf.’”

Owens and the children presented Tellabration to the Parents and Teachers Organization at Morningside Elementary School.

“In our version, the wolf was put on trial,” Owens said. “That new twist gave the students an opportunity to use their imagination and develop critical thinking skills.”

Toussaint Hill, assistant director of Upward Bound at ASU, has a 4-year-old son, Landon, who played a lawyer in the Tellabration.

“The play was well-constructed, and the children performed well,” he said.

Fadara Collins, the mother of Avarie Collins, a pre-kindergarten student at the ELC, agreed with Hill.

“I was amazed at the memory of the children,” she said. “They were able to correct each other whenever someone forgot a line. By taking the story further, the play taught them how to express themselves. Owens will be an excellent teacher.”

Lucas said, “I was really glad Monica utilized the center like she did. She took full advantage of what we offer – a state of the art building, mentoring from certified early childhood educators and opportunities to interact with the children.”

Lucas is interested in getting ASU students to be more involved.

“We want the students of the university to know that this building was built for them,” Lucas said. “It’s here for them to use for observation, volunteering and research. Any ASU student can do the same as Monica and other students who have taken advantage of this great opportunity to get the hands-on experience of working with children and families.”