The Class of 2013 is the first WestStar class to begin their WestStar experience with an opening retreat. The opening retreat began with Charley giving an overview of the WestStar program with tips and hints of information. It also provided the class with an excellent opportunity to get to know each other through David Belote’s team building activities. The class project will be another leadership legacy story, but this year the legacy will be WestStar. The class will be interviewing charter board member, the first class and others involved with the beginning of the WestStar Leadership program. This information will be used as part of the 2014 25th anniversary program. We were able to hear each of their introductions based on the book, 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader by John Maxwell, which was provided by Dr. David Gordon, ’02. The night ended with a fine dining experience and a panel of the past WestStar Executive Directors. Dr. Bob Smith, Dr. Nick Dunagan, David Belote, and Charley Deal discussed the vision of WestStar and how it has progressed to the reality of the program it is today.

We are looking forward to continuing the program with the Weakley/Oblion session. All alumni are welcomed to the Martin reception on Thursday, January 3, 2013 to meet the Class of 2013.

WestStar Calendar

- Jan. 3-4 - Weakley/Oblion Session
- Jan. 24-25 - Haywood/Tipton Co. Session
- Feb. 15 - Working Women’s Conf.
- Feb. 21-22 - Madison County Session
- March 12-13 - Nashville Session
- March 21 - Non-Profit Conference
- April 4-5 - Dyer/Lauderdale Session
- April 18 - African American Leadership Conf.
- April 23-24 - Gibson/Crocket Session

Please contact Virginia Grimes for information and details of the calendar events.

“There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.

- Albert Schweitzer
## Charley’s Top 10 Leadership Books


## Spotlight on a Leader

A WestStar graduate of 2006, Mayor Willie Spencer of Hardeman County, is our Fall 2012 leader in the spotlight. Mayor Spencer was born and raised in Hardeman county and graduated from Allen-White High School in Whiteville, Tennessee. He attended Lane College from 1967-1971 and graduated with a bachelors of science in education. After graduating from Lane, he was employed at Procter and Gamble Manufacturing Company in Jackson, Tennessee where he served in many leadership capacities, including electrical technician, team manager, technical manager, department manager, and personnel organization effectiveness manager. After 27 years with Proctor and Gamble, he started his own company, Bond and Spencer Contracting, and began private consulting with Procter and Gamble and Manpower West Tennessee. While in Madison County, he served on various non-profit boards and committees. In 2001, Willie moved back to Hardeman County and in 2002 he was elected to the County Commission. During his term as commissioner, he served as vice chair of the commission and mayor pro tempore in the absence of County Mayor Don Clifft. In 2006, Willie was elected as the Hardeman County Mayor and he serves on many boards and committees in the county. Spencer has been married to his wife Dixie for 35 years and they have four children and nine grandchildren. We appreciate all Mayor Spencer has accomplished for Hardeman County and West Tennessee.
The Annual WestStar Reunion was held at Pickwick Landing State Park Inn on October 11th. We had a terrific event with Dr. Bob Smith, founder of WestStar and David Browning, “Barney Fife”. Dr. Smith brought us back to Leadership 101 with some basic principles of leadership. One of his points “Focus on things you can control,” emphasized not stressing over situations that are out of our hands. Mr. Browning incorporated leadership lessons throughout his Mayberry tales that were inspirational as well as hilarious. He made us think, but we had a good time doing it. Below are just a few snapshots from our day at Pickwick.

Pictured above R to L: (1) “Barney” handing out citations to the Alums. (2) Pam Nash, Tawnya “Abby” Moore, and Mike Wilson. (3) Sen. Dolores Gresham and Dr. Bob Smith.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012 for winning the Loving Cup Award! With their outstanding 100% participation and record number of Lifetime memberships, they broke all records being the first rookie class to win the Loving Cup award. (pictured left)

Congratulations to Henry County! Henry County won the inaugural County Star Award. This award is presented to the county with the best percentage of Alumni Association Membership. While other counties thought they had the prize in the bag, Henry County pulled through with 72% Alumni Association participation. (Pictured right) Hardin County was second place with 70% participation.

Ramay Winchester, ’92 and Mark Chandler ’00
The 2nd Annual FutureStar Leadership Summit was held on November 8th this year. After the successful event in March and feedback from the school counselors, it was decided to move the event to the fall with the RisingStar Summit and expand to Carroll, Henry, and Obion Counties as well as Weakley.

The FutureStars experienced a condensed version of what the RisingStars would participate in the latter part of November. They were taken on individualized campus tours and participated in Dr. Julie Hill’s drum circle. Darron Billings (’11) was the keynote speaker during lunch. Many of our 7th and 8th graders were moved by his story and spent some time speaking to him after lunch. One of our students stated that Darron’s story had moved her because the one person that believed in her had passed away. She was comforted knowing that someone else had succeeded through difficult times. Darron’s message was, “believe in yourself because if you don’t, no one will”. We thank Darron for all the time he has given to the two Summits because no matter a child’s situation, his message can apply to each one.

Save the Date!

FutureStar Leadership Summit- November 7, 2013
RisingStar Leadership Summit - November 21-22, 2013

If you are interested in financially sponsoring a student from your community to attend either of the Summits, please contact the office. We especially need sponsors for the FutureStar Summit as they participate at no cost to the student.
We could not have had a better group of student leaders than we had for our 2nd Annual RisingStar Leadership Summit. Each student brought something different to the dynamics of the group and contributed, wholeheartedly, to each session.

Joe Barker and Darron Billings spoke again this year to the group about their motivational real-life stories to help teach the students about perseverance and persistence in reaching their goals.

The students also had the opportunity to participate in individualized campus tours to a UT Martin department of their choice. Dr. Julie Hill facilitated a drum circle that taught the importance of listening to even the smallest voice in a group because they contribute to the overall product as well as the loudest. Judy Renshaw, Justin Totty, and Jackie Johnson led two breakout sessions for the leadership skills workshop. Judy taught the students about their leadership styles. Justin and Jackie focused on looking beyond “first world problems” in order to help solve global problems.

Mandy McClellan a Lauderdale County student, was voted by her peers to win the RisingStar Leadership Scholarship. If Mandy chooses to attend UTM, she will be awarded a $1,000 scholarship her freshman year.
WestStar Class of 2013

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 for being chosen to participate in this year’s WestStar Leadership Program. This promises to be an outstanding class (again!) and we are excited to being the program with them. Below is the list of new class members for 2013.

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<th>Michele Atkins</th>
<th>Chris Crider</th>
<th>Emily Land</th>
<th>Carol Reed</th>
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**2013 WestStar Session Dates**

January 3-4 - Martin/Union City Session
January 24-25 – Brownsville/Covington Session
February 21-21 – Jackson Session
March 12-13 – Nashville Session
(class will be staying at the Homewood Suites Hotel)
April 4-5 – Dyersburg/Ripley Session
April 24-25 – Alamo/Humboldt Session
May 14-15 – Paris Session
June 6-7 – Selmer/Savannah/Pickwick Session
June 20 – Graduation Banquet, Jackson (Double Tree Hotel)
**Alumni Updates and Achievements**

**Jamie Frakes '99** - Presented with SWTDD’s “Regional Collaboration Award” for Dyersburg State Community College’s role in organizing and hosting the Tri-County College Summit

**Leah Gray ‘09** - Welcomed son, Alex Nathaniel Gray, into the world on September 20, 2012

**Lisa Hankins ‘00** - Awarded SWTDD’s ECD Employee of the Year

**Joey Hassell ‘10** - Accepted a new job as assistant commissioner for special populations starting January 2, 2013. He was selected as Superintendent of the Year in SW Tennessee.

**Jody Kizer ‘10** - Joined Commercial Bank & Trust as Vice President of Union City’s operations

**Jo Matherne ‘02** - City of Brownsville’s “On the Move” program received SWTDD’s Community Excellence Award

**Mike Philpot ‘97** - Named 2nd Vice Chairman of Southern Economic Development County Board of Directors

**Doug Roth ‘10** - Promoted as BancorpSouth’s Jackson’s Community President

**Franklin Smith ‘93** - Received the SWTDD/AAAD Impact Award

**We grieve with...** Shirley Burford ‘02 upon the death of her husband in October.

The Family of **Ruth Cohill, ’06**, upon her death in late November.

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**Ruth Cohill**

September 25, 1975 - November 28, 2012

The WestStar Family and West Tennessee lost one of its treasures on November 28th in a tragic accident. Ruth Cohill was one of our beloved leaders who truly lived to make a difference in West Tennessee. Her death has been felt throughout the region as there is now a void in Ripley’s Tennessee Technology Center where she served as the Student Services Recruiter and Coordinator. As is evidenced by her Facebook page, she was an inspiration and mentor to many, especially the students at TTC.

Ruth was a graduate of WestStar, Class of 2006, the Tipton Organized to Achieve Leadership class, and was currently participating in Leadership Crockett. In 2011, she was awarded the Emerging Leader Award at WestStar’s African American Conference where she had participated for many years. She was also active in the Tennessee Association for Community Leaders (TACL). Ruth served as president of the Exchange Club and her family has asked that any memorials be directed to them. You may send those to:

Exchange Club
In memory of Ruth Cohill
P. O. box 534
Ripley, TN 38063

We grieve with Ruth’s family as they go through this difficult time of losing a loved one too soon. She was an instant friend to whomever she met and she will be tremendously missed.