



**For Immediate Release**  
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**EVANGELINE PARKER RECEIVES ARKANSAS DEMOCRATIC BLACK CAUCUS PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
*Teen Promise Executive Director Evangeline Parker among 13 who received Caucus's highest awards*

**Little Rock, Arkansas** – The annual King/Kennedy Dinner presented by the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus held Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock, Arkansas was an elegant and soulful evening of celebration. "Tonight we celebrate the 'Soul of the Democratic Party,' the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the NAACP and honor 13 men and women who have rendered outstanding service to their communities and to our state," said Linda Chesterfield, Caucus President. "This event is named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President John Fitzgerald Kennedy because both men's lives paralleled each other, and both men gave their lives in the pursuit of those ideals which epitomize the Democratic Party," added Chesterfield.

Evangeline Parker, Comcast Public Affairs Coordinator was among six individuals presented the President's Award. "I'm presenting Evangeline Parker with the President's award because she is a dedicated worker in the community, and I continue to be impressed with the work she is doing in the lives of young females through her Teen Promise program," said Chesterfield.

"I'm truly honored to receive this President's award and as I stand here I'm not alone tonight because I stand on the shoulders of many great women including the young women who have come through the Teen Promise program and are now leaders and high achievers throughout the United States and abroad," said Parker. "I'm also thankful to Betty Farris, Comcast Human Resources Manager for being a mentor and daily inspiration to me, and I thank Comcast for helping us showcase young females in a positive light."

Parker is the founder and executive director of the Teen Promise Female Preparatory & Scholarship program that over the past 11 years has provided leadership and life skills training to over 250 Arkansas females between the age of 6 and 18 and awarded them more than \$62,000 in scholarships and prizes. Teen Promise programs have assisted young females in developing the promise within and becoming award winning teachers, academic achievers and successful women and leaders within their communities.

President awards were also presented to Congressman Mike Ross, Rev. Hezekiah Stewart, Watershed Inc.; Lorene Joshua, North Little Rock NAACP; Kenneth Musteen, Department of Workforce Education-Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Ernestine Pondexter mother of President Linda Chesterfield. Other service honorees included: Lottie Shackelford, Vice-Chair of Democratic National Convention Voter Registration and Participation; Carl Redus, Mayor of Pine Bluff; Joe Booker, Program Director for KIPR Power 92.3; Dexter Doyne, Doyne Construction; Cynthia Nance, Dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law; Marietha Neal, Texarkana Arkansas Public School System and Onie Norman, Desha County Community Activist.



L to R: Mayor Carl Redus, Ernestine Pondexter, Marietha Neal, Dean Cynthia Nance, Lottie Shackelford, President Linda Chesterfield, Rev. Hezekiah Stewart, Onie Norman, Evangeline Parker and Dexter Doyne

