

Ben Davis University High School Student Ambassadors

By Foundation Board Member Bart York

Grant Recipient: Flora Jones

The Wayne Township Education Foundation funded a leadership program at Bradford Woods for 40 students selected to serve the school as ambassadors. These students promote, represent, and mentor other students to become attentive, leaders, opportunistic for educational achievement, and adult success.

It is easy to realize quickly the success this program brings to the school by listening to the faculty sponsor that I interviewed. Flora Jones gets it. Her passion to help students achieve was not only recognized as we talked, but more importantly confirmed by one of her students.

The student that I was allowed to interview has lived in the United States his entire life but his parents are from Northwest Africa. He searched out a school like BDU and enrolled as a freshman after attending a private school through the elementary grades. As a sophomore he was given a chance to join the Ambassador Club and has traveled to Bradford Woods twice. He felt like a follower on his first trip; however, the second time he became the leader. He learned to listen well, utilize everyone's opinion and, at the same time, lead for success on the many activities including raft building, island games, communication skills, and team building.

Most importantly this student became a mentor to a fellow student who possibly was at risk. His "mentee" started at BDU with poor grades, a bad attitude and the wrong friends, but with his mentor's (ambassador's) help, he has grown into a student that enjoys school, is graduating with both an associates degree and high school diploma and has been accepted to attend an Indiana college.

This Ambassador program and extra opportunities provided by the Foundation is not only fostering leadership characteristics, but also supporting opportunities for the students to succeed now and later in life. As a foundation board member I am extremely pleased to see the grant dollars utilized for such a great program.