



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Columbia Housing Authority**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Columbia Housing Authority to Reward Residents of All Ages with Scholarships and Gift Cards for Academic Success**  
*Recipients Include Valedictorian of C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy*

**Columbia, S.C.** – Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) will reward 77 public housing and Section 8 residents with scholarships and gift cards for their success during the 2007-2008 school year during its annual Education Achievement Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 12 at the Cecil Tillis Center, 2111 Simpkins Lane.

There are five categories of awards:

- **Good Grades Award** – recipients receive a \$25 gift card
- **Good Parent Award** – recipients receive a \$25 gift card
- **High School Graduate/GED Award** – recipients receive a \$100 scholarship check
- **Dean's List Award** – recipients receive a \$25 gift card
- **College Degree Award** – recipients receive a \$100 scholarship check

Of the 77 residents to be honored, 47 earned the Good Grades Award, eight earned the Good Parent Award, three earned the Dean's List Award and 19 earned the High School Graduate or College Degree Award. **Denishia Macon**, 2008 valedictorian of C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy, is among the residents to be honored.

CHA created the Education Achievement Awards Program not only to reward residents for their success in school, but also to encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education. Since 1997, CHA residents of all ages have earned more than \$57,000 in awards for their academic achievements.

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“I’m so happy that we have a program like Education Achievement that encourages our residents to do their very best in school,” said Gilbert Walker, CHA executive director. “But our gift to the residents is miniscule compared to how their academic success will keep rewarding them for their entire lives.”

CHA manages over 2,000 conventional public housing units and administers more than 3,100 rental assistance contracts throughout Richland County. CHA is the third oldest housing authority in the nation and has continuously been recognized by HUD for its successful housing and education programs.

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*The media are cordially invited to attend the ceremony and help CHA celebrate the academic accomplishments of these outstanding residents.*