

# Choice Scholars: Motorola Moments

Marianne Stanke – Motorola Solutions  
Shante' Bishop – Harper College  
Eric Nielsen – Choice Scholar

# Choice Scholars

- ▶ Program history
- ▶ Purpose of the program
- ▶ Who is involved
- ▶ What was different this year –
  - Motorola Moments



# The Partnership

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## Harper partners with Motorola to help students

BY J.T. MORAND

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A couple of things every high school graduate needs before embarking on a course of studies in college is confidence and an idea of what kind of career they might want to pursue.

But, not every student has the confidence or sometime even a clue. Sometimes that's because their placement tests weren't quite where they needed to be and they have to take a remedial class before starting college.

Harper College in Palatine seems to have developed a remedy through the federal Skills for America's Future initiative, which fosters partnerships between community colleges and corporations to build workforce development strategies, job training and placement.

Employees of Motorola Solutions are participating in Harper's Choice Scholars Institute, a 4-week program designed to help incoming freshmen, who didn't place in college-level coursework, improve their reading, writing and math skills before the start of college. Motorola professionals are conducting "Motorola Moments," lunchtime sessions intended

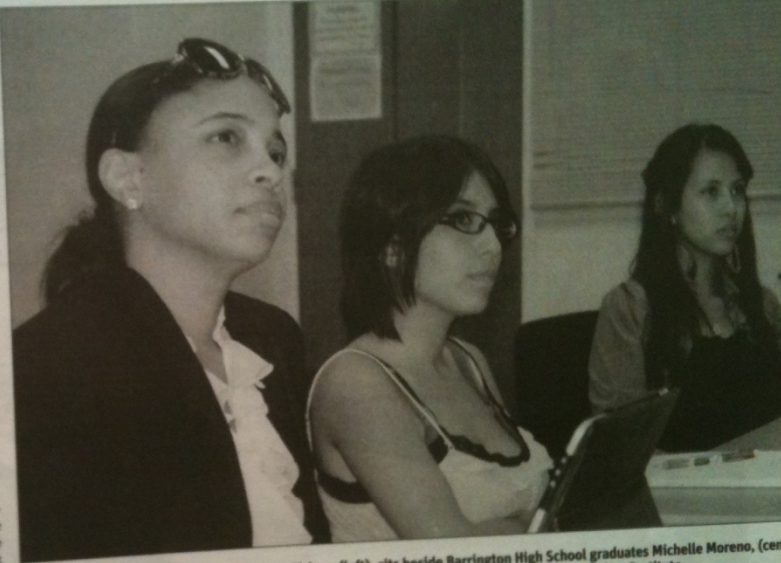
to show how those skills, and others, are applicable in the working world. Discussions also include the importance of critical thinking, innovation, marketing and communications, and positive attitude.

Dr. Shante Bishop, coordinator of Choice Scholars Institute, said the remedial program was successful last year, with 70 to 80 percent of students either moving up a level or placing out of it completely.

"Choice Scholars, on average, has about 76 to 80 percent in the reading and English category moving up in their placement and 80 to 85 percent moving up in their math placement," she said, adding it's the college's goal to see students place out of the remedial program so that they can start earning college credit as soon as possible.

Students say the working world professionals are instilling confidence and are helping make sense of what they're learning.

Barrington High School graduate Veronica Gutierrez is enrolled in math, writing and design classes. At this point, she's undecided about a major. But, since she's been in the Choice Scholars Institute, she's been thinking about



Harper College Assistant Professor Shante Bishop, (left), sits beside Barrington High School graduates Michelle Moreno, (center), and Veronica Gutierrez during a presentation featured as part of the college's Choice Scholars Institute.

graphic design or marketing. "I've got a better understanding of what jobs want, what they're looking for in a person," she said. "I feel more confident. Now I kind of feel like I know what I want to do because when I got out of high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I feel like I have



BRAND VOICE

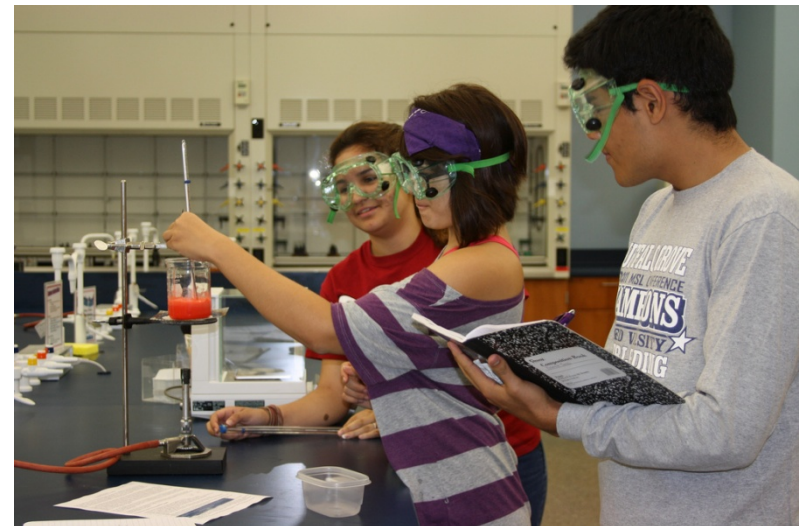
# Motorola's Role in Choice Scholars

- ▶ Motorola Solutions shared their expertise with Harper students through sessions called, “Motorola Moments”
  - **Human Resources** – Tracy Cordova, Molly Huml
  - **Nursing** – Jackie Reece
  - **Graphic Arts/Marketing** – Gary Van Prooyen
  - **Education** – Ralph Miles
  - **Innovation** – Maria Thompson
  - **Strategy** – Marianne Stanke



# Skills for America's Future

- ▶ CEO Greg Brown selected as board member of Skills for America's Future
- ▶ Motorola Solutions commits to Skills for America's Future pledge
- ▶ Choice Scholars is a program supporting Skills for America's Future



# Motorola Solutions Grant

Harper is submitting a grant application for additional support from Motorola Solutions

Focus: To encourage Choice Scholars to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs

Motorola Solutions is committed to Harper College and Skills for America's Future by guiding students of today to be better equipped tomorrow in a professional arena, making America more competitive on a global level

# Student's Perspective

Eric Nielsen – Choice Student

- ▶ Impressions of the program
- ▶ Memorable moments
- ▶ How the program and Motorola's involvement will assist them in the future



# Questions