

DAU RECEIVES CAREER CONNECTIONS AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARTNERS IN EDUCATION AND MENTOR WORKS AWARDS PROGRAM

On Feb. 3, the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) received the Career Connections Award during the Fairfax County Partners in Education and Mentor Works Awards Program ceremony, held at Edison High School Auditorium, Alexandria, Va. Among the 100 Business partners participating in the program, DAU-DSMC was recognized for outstanding support and partnership with the Bryant Alternative High School, Alexandria, Va.

For the past eight years, Bryant Adult Alternative High School has partnered with DAU, Ft. Belvoir, Va. At the start of each school year, a steering committee of 16 members from both Bryant Adult Alternative High School and DAU meets to develop the Partnership Plans for the school year. Over the past eight years, DAU has planned and participated in an average of 20 activities each school year on behalf of Bryant.

Many of the activities span the curriculum for career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation. DAU's major contributions to the partnership range from the plaques awarded three times a year at the Bryant Awards Assembly to students possessing the traits of leadership, scholarship, and service; to the Job Shadowing Program that

involves over 25 students shadowing a professional at DAU.

Other partnership activities include: Headstart Reading Program, Book Fair, Education Program for Equipment, Tutoring and Mentoring Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive and Pantry Food Collection, and Winter Coat Drive.

Bryant Adult Alternative High School is unique among the many high schools in Fairfax County. Its programs reflect the needs and the diversity of the student population. In recent years, every student and staff member has been influenced by one of the many partnership activities successfully completed throughout the school year, markedly improving the overall attendance, providing the venue for students to make the necessary and valuable connection between the school and the career, and providing the resources needed for the students to become well-rounded members of the community.

For more information about the DAU-Bryant partnership, contact Helen Haltzel, Director, Acker Library, at Helen.Haltzel@dau.mil; or call (703) 805-4555.



Air Force Col. William McNally, former Director, DAU Operations, displays the Career Connections Award earned by DAU volunteers for their active involvement in the DAU-Bryant Alternative High School Partnership. Pictured from left: Air Force Master Sgt. Rhonda Jenkins; Greg Caruth; Ed Boyd; Kay Sondheimer; Debbie Gonzalez; Kelly Long; Cathy Pearson; Linda Garnish; Helen Haltzel; Cheryl Clark; and Navy Petty Officer Carolyn Dickenson.