

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Wallace Alumnus Farmer Addresses State Board Work Session**  
**Ghana Native Earns Standing Ovation with Speech**



Pictured (left to right): Wallace president Dr. Linda Young, Eunice Farmer, Alabama State Board of Education member Betty Peters, and Chancellor Freida Hill.

**Dothan, Ala.** – Wallace Community College Alumnus Eunice Farmer received a standing ovation at a recent Alabama State Board of Education Postsecondary Work Session, where she spoke about her incredible story of impoverished beginnings in her native Ghana and successful graduation as an Associate Degree Nurse from Wallace Community College. The meeting took place in Montgomery, Ala. on February 9. Wallace president Dr. Linda Young introduced Farmer at the session.

Born into the Krobo Tribe in Ghana, one of the world's poorest countries, Farmer and her family faced a daily challenge for existence. Culturally, the burden of obtaining food, clothing and childcare falls to women. By age six, she was solely responsible for preparing meals and caring

for younger children. Allowed to attend school, Farmer discovered a desire to learn and a dream of a better life. In 2007, Farmer married an American and immigrated to Atlanta, where she worked as a housekeeper while attending college. After earning an associate degree in psychology and a certificate in certified nurse assisting, Farmer still dreamed of more. She began classes at Wallace Community College to achieve the goal she really wanted – to become a registered nurse.

Addressing the audience at the Work Session, Farmer acknowledged that her journey was made possible “by being at the right place at the right time. At Wallace Community College, my dream was fulfilled. I have attended other colleges before Wallace, but the hospitality of the faculty and administrators was extraordinary.” Farmer particularly praised adviser Lori Hughes for helping her “in every way possible – even beyond my expectations.”

Farmer credits the supportive atmosphere at Wallace for with giving her courage to “transform from nobody to the professional woman that you see standing in front of you.” She expressed her gratitude to Wallace Community College and the Alabama Board of Education for “implementing initiatives to help the less privileged to get an education.”

Farmer is currently working on her bachelor’s degree in nursing through the partnership program between Wallace Community College and the University of Alabama – Capstone School of Nursing. She plans to give back the support of others by establishing a scholarship to other determined children who wish to earn an education.

For more information about Wallace Community College, call (334) 983-3521 or (800) 543-2426, extension 2468.

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## **GHANA NATIVE USING EDUCATION TO REACH HER DREAMS**

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“... Eunice Farmer, 33, grew up in the rural community of Krobo-Odumase in Ghana, a West African nation ... [in] a very traditional area, [where] few educational opportunities are afforded to women. Instead they are expected to raise children and lead households where the men are often absent. Farmer wanted more. She got her opportunity when her father moved his second wife, Farmer’s mother, to a less tradition-bound part of Ghana. ... Farmer attended school there ... but had to leave school because of financial considerations. Farmer’s dream of pursuing her education never died, and she got another chance when she moved to America after marrying an American citizen in 2007. While working as a housekeeper in Georgia, Farmer began attending Georgia Perimeter College, earning an associate degree in psychology. ... Now Farmer is working toward her BSN [ at Wallace Community College] and sending home any spare money she comes across back to Ghana to help support her mother and educate her younger sisters. Farmer hopes to earn a master’s degree in nursing and return to Ghana to work with women’s health issues there and also to provide young Ghanan girls with the role model they never had, that of a professional, successful woman.”