

FBI W. Drake 8/30/10

Local teacher receives more than just good instruction

Taunjaerina Drake, Math Department Leader and 8th grade math teacher with Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Port Arthur, attended the 24th annual Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Conference in Louisville, Kent., last month.

She was among 6,000 teachers, support staff, and administrators attending this year's conference. Also, attending the conference with her were Principal, Dr. Barbara Polk; Assistant Principal, Mrs. Tanuya Worthy; and Mrs. Maline Williams, Instructional Coach from Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

About 6,000 educators attended the 24th annual SREB High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference July 14-17 in Louisville, Kentucky. The event offered more than 500 presentations by teachers, school leaders and national education experts.

In the opening session, SREB presented the First Lady of Kentucky with an award for her work to improve education statewide and as a former career/technical education teacher. SREB Senior Vice President Gene Bottoms then urged educators to make school more challenging and relevant for students, so that more of them graduate from high school better-prepared for college and career training.

"I received a lot of valuable information that I can use immediately in the



Courtesy photo

Taunjaerina Drake, middle, presented with grand prize of Dell Notebook laptop computer and free PLS online course. Left, Principal Dr. Barbara Polk, and Lorene Malanowski, PLS Project Coordinator featured on right.

classroom from the many speakers and presenters, said Drake. I have so many new ideas to make my classroom more energized and fun to encourage learning. To top off the week, I won a laptop computer and a free online class from Performance Learning Systems (PLS)." Drake added, "The conference was a valuable experience and I look forward to attending another HSTW conference in the future."

The grand prize, worth over \$1,000, was one free

PLS online (three-hour, graduate credit) class that could be taken on the new Dell Inspiron Mini laptop computer Drake received from Performance Learning Systems, Inc. (PLS). Over 50 exhibitors like PLS were on hand to talk with conference attendees about their products and services. Carla Minks, director of marketing at PLS, "Any opportunity we have to mingle directly with teachers and administrators to discuss their

needs for professional development, graduate course topics, and classroom concerns aids our company in a big way. The information gathered is taken back to our business areas and considered while developing our products and other offerings." PLS gave out Kaleidoscope Profiles (a learning styles inventory), daily door prizes, and the grand prize to winning participants who signed up for the drawings.