



News Release

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NFCC alumni brothers set the standards for success for rural youth

MADISON, FL – Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. and his brother, Dr. Chester Aikens came from humble African-American roots in Madison County, Florida. By any standard they both are winners, not allowing any thing – race, economic status, gender, religion - to become a barrier to their success. Both are recipients of the LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award from the Florida Association of Community Colleges.

Augustus Aikens, Jr., a Leon County Judge, is a 1968 graduate of North Florida Junior College. After earning an A.A. at NFJC, he went on to earn a B.A. in Social Science from Florida State University, a J.D. from the FSU College of Law and a M.S. in Public Administration from FSU. Aikens has received the 2004 LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Chester Aikens, an oral surgeon in Jacksonville, received his A.A. degree from NFJC in 1971. He earned a bachelor's degree, a doctorate in dental surgery, a law degree and an M.B.A. Aikens' credits include the FSU Outstanding Alumni Award, LeRoy Collins Distinguished Community College Alumni Award, Who's Who Among Black Americans, and Ebony Magazine's 100 Most Influential Black Americans.

Judge Aikens wrote of his college experience that when he first thought about attending college he felt he may have to leave Madison to find "a college which would challenge me academically" and provide a social environment without color barriers. He says that he soon discovered everything he could hope for was right in his hometown of Madison.

"I left North Florida ... with a renewed commitment to be successful and to show the world what a North Florida graduate could do," said Judge Aikens.

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