

LOCAL STUDENTS GETS A REALITY CHECK



Pictured: Mr. Elijah Rollins, Jr. of WABT assisting one of the students, Carleta Hogue, daughter of Rev. & Mrs. Carlton Hogue

For the last six years, Ms. Rachel Bonner, Family & Consumer Science Educator, has coordinated with the Perry County Extension Office to present a life size simulation that gives the students a hands-on approach to money management. The Freshman class at Francis Marion High School participated in the **Reality Check**© Program on March 30th.

The purpose of the **Reality Check**© program is to introduce the youth to the real world with an emphasis on education, career paths, family planning and economics. The youth have the opportunity to discover how to manage a budget based on their family situations. In the simulation, students are the primary supporters of a household. They are given at random a monthly salary and a career and then they proceed through different storefronts to obtain the necessities for life. As they maneuver through the different storefronts, they learn how to record transactions in a bank ledger and manage their monthly salary. The students begin to understand the importance of managing money and properly providing for themselves, as well as a family. The **Reality Check**© program opens the eyes of teens and they see the importance of getting a proper education vs. lack of an education as it relates to the amount of money they can earn. The goal the program is to educate the youth of the pitfalls and consequences of making bad choices.

Special thanks to Dorothy Hornbuckle, Carmen Paige, Jamie Richey, Elijah Rollins, Jr. and the upper classmen at FMHS for who assisted with the facilitation of the program. Our sincere appreciation goes to Mr. John Heard III, Ms. Rachel Bonner and administrators of FMHS for allowing **Reality Check**© to be a part of your annual education curriculum.