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*Jarvis Christian College announces 66 graduates in the Class of 2014*

Jarvis Christian College held its annual Commencement exercises at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 3, 2014 in the E. W. Rand Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Center on the college’s campus in Hawkins, Texas. At the ceremony, 66 graduates were awarded bachelor degrees. A reception for the graduates, family, and friends followed commencement exercises.

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, who currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), was the commencement speaker.

Dr. Wheelan, the first African-American and first female to serve in this capacity, spoke candidly to the diverse group of graduates and approximately 600 friends and family who were in attendance. “You have value,” she said. “It really doesn’t matter what skin color you are because we are all Americans. And American ends with the letters I-C-A-N … I can. You have shown that you can do anything. You are sitting here today and we are celebrating your success.”

Afterwards, she offered some “tidbits” to make life a little better. “No one is more important than anyone else; we’re all in this together; don’t be so quick to anger; lighten up and laugh periodically; ask for help and offer to help.”

Dr. Wheelan has received numerous awards and recognitions, including four honorary degrees, plus many other accolades including inclusion among *Washingtonian Magazine*’s 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, DC and the American Association of University Women’s (AAUW) Woman of Distinction Award.