

## **Auburn University College Access Program: Making Educational Opportunities Accessible**

The Auburn University College Access Program (AUCAP) has been busy this past school year. While ACT preparation is a major focus of the program, the primary goal of AUCAP is to prepare students at Loachapoka High School to graduate “college ready.” AUCAP hosted a *College and Career Day* at the school which included educational empowerment seminars on college admission, financial aid, and career exploration. AUCAP also partnered with the Auburn University Miller Writing Center to review essays submitted by AUCAP students during an essay contest to promote creative and thoughtful writing which is critical to the college application process. In addition to providing valuable feedback to the students, Miller Writing Center staff served as judges for the contest. After submitting top ranking essays, four talented AUCAP students along with their English teacher were selected to attend the *Extraordinary Women Lecture* featuring Dr. Maya Angelou. Because AUCAP stresses academic achievement as well as civic engagement, students also organized a holiday food drive to provide holiday baskets for less fortunate families in their community.

Expanding its focus, AUCAP in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) established the Loachapoka 4-H Club which enables AUCAP students to fellowship with local 4-H clubs in the area, participate in various local, regional and state competitions and travel to regional and national conferences. The 4-H curriculum also includes activities that promote public speaking, health and wellness, as well as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). This partnership as well as the engagement from teachers, students and the Loachapoka community highlights the richness of potential and opportunity.



AUCAP’s culminating activities included a rocket launch at Loachapoka High School where students launched rockets constructed during 4-H club meetings and a trip to Auburn University. The visit began with an interactive information session at the Quad Center, followed by a guided tour of the campus and lunch in the student center. AUCAP students ended the day with a tour of the Multicultural Center where they reflected on their experiences in the Auburn University College Access Program, shared their summer plans and posed for a group photo.

