W.W. Stewart receives national recognition

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National recognition was given to W.W. Stewart in Basile when it was one of two schools in the State of Louisiana selected to represent Title One schools in the state. W.W. Stewart Principal Christine Bacon speaks at the Evangeline Parish School Board meeting.

an introduction to the school's success at the board meeting.

In her comments, Bacon said:

"WWSE (W.W. Stewart Elementary) is a high poverty/high performing school, recognized by the Louisiana Department of Education for exceeding the school performance expectations of our state accountability plan. And now, being selected as the Louisiana School of Distinction for exceeding annual progress for two or more years, we stop to give thanks to the dedicated staff, the students, the parents, our superintendent, supervisors, directors and especially to our Dr. Bobby (Deshotel, board member) for supporting us and for having faith in us and for allowing us to grow. Dr. Bobby has been our leader since 1970. Tonight by his side, stand two of his grandchildren who attend WWSE, Vivian and Isabella. Doc, your leadership as a school board member has helped to make WWSE the school it is, not only for these children who surround us tonight, but for countless others. We honor you for your dedication to the children of Basile. We love you Doc."

Bacon said this began with a solid belief "all children can learn if they are expected to learn." She said the school sets goals and the students set goals. Then everyone is held accountable, and this program is working at WWSE.

The school's mission statement is "Shine - continuous academic growth for every child." And that is what has happened because the school's SPS (school performance score) for the spring of 2010 is 129.9. The school's SPS number means it's number 35 out of 1,269 schools in the state. "This means that our school is in the top 2.8 percent of the schools in the state and 25 of the schools that ranked higher than we did are schools for advanced students." Bacon said the school's math index grew by 14.6 points last year.

Bacon acknowledged her staff. "Getting good results involves more than good teaching. Kids have to love it." She said they have "aligned curriculum and assessments as well as quality teaching." This action has taken the students to high levels of achievement. In order to do this, she said moral beliefs and social behaviors must be in place because "children of poverty can learn. Students with disabilities can learn. Children of all ethnicities and backgrounds can learn. There are no excuses in life. People who do not believe these things do not work for very long at WWSE. We strive to build character by modeling it and by involving students in activities that promote such."

Bacon went on to explain the school's logo. See WWSE, Page 15