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## Anonymous gift aids Youth Leadership Council again

By Chris Van Tuyl

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Officials with the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi made a \$30,000 donation at Tuesday's DeSoto County Board of Education meeting to continue the Superintendent's Youth Leadership Council for a sixth consecutive year.

Community Foundation president Tom Pittman, along with treasurer Mackey Moore and Community Development director Peggy Linton, made the presentation to Supt. Milton Kuykendall on behalf of an anonymous donor.

"You may recall six years ago we had an anonymous donor that wanted to do something for DeSoto County Schools," Pittman said. "You all ... decided the best thing to do would be to start a youth leadership council, and our donor has decided to fund that again."

The youth council is a program designed to help high school students develop leadership skills.

According to Kuykendall, this year's sponsors will be announced soon by Emily Nelson, the DCS executive director of leadership development.

"We have a great school district," said Kuykendall, "and I think community support is one of the top ingredients we have. It gives us an opportunity to do extra things."

Each of the eight county high schools will be represented: Center Hill, DeSoto Central, Hernando, Horn Lake, Lake Cormorant, Lewisburg, Olive Branch and Southaven.

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