



DEOMI

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

DEOMI, Eastern Florida State College combine for Black History Month Celebration Finale

Feb. 28, 2018

Palm Bay, Fla. -- Eastern Florida State College and members of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute joined forces here at the Palm Bay campus to present a Black History Month Celebration called “A Celebration of Black Culture.”



Their theme also tied into the National 2018 Black History Month Theme of “African Americans in Times of War,” as Army Col. Mary L. Martin, DEOMI Commandant, served as the guest speaker for the well-attended event.

Before she took the podium, Palm Bay Mayor William Capote and Palm Bay Police Chief James Rogers thanked all who put the event together and especially those who were or are currently

serving their country as military service member.

(Photo above, Palm Bay Police Chief James Rogers, center, shakes hands with DEOMI’s 1st Sergeant, Navy Chief Petty Officer Daryl Richardson. SGM April Ivory, DEOMI’s Senior Enlisted Advisor is at right and COL Mary L. Martin is in the center. Photos by Army Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Brandenburg)

Dr. Wayne Stein, the College Provost, then introduced the day’s master of ceremonies, Mr. Michael A. Cadore, Sr., the campus associate Provost.

The self-proclaimed “Uncle Mike,” who expertly combined humor and honor throughout the event, then introduced the DEOMI Commandant, who first entered active duty in the enlisted ranks from October 1985, to October 1988, serving as an administrative specialist.

After sharing stories, memories and “lessons learned” of four service members she considered role models and friends during her 33-year career service, Col. Martin then spoke directly to the students gathered in the outside veranda.



“And let us all respect our history, know your history and be the history makers that affect us each and every day,” said Army Col. Mary L. Martin, DEOMI Commandant

“To all you young people, I say to you that education is most important and is key to your future and your success,” she said. “There are so many other things you could be doing right now but this is exactly where you need to be today. So stay on this foundation you have started so that your future will be sunny and bright,” she advised.

“And,” she said with a knowing pause, “let us all respect our history, know your history and be the history makers that affect us each and every day.”

In his closing, the affable “Uncle Mike” praised members of the EFSC and local high school communities, to include:

- **Dance performance:** The “Eta Sigma Steppers, Heritage High School
- **Spoken Word:** Ms. Elizabeth Hernandez: First Place
- **Gospel Hymn:** Euds Celian and Bianca Ortiz

“When I look around this room I am always amazed at the quality, drive, intelligence, pride and teamwork I see in these amazing students of ours,” said Cadore.

“And let me once again thank Colonel Martin for her inspiring words and the way she *connected* with these students before, during and after our event. She and her team were real-world role models for all of us,” he said.



“When I look around this room I am always amazed at the quality, drive, intelligence, pride and teamwork I see in these amazing students of ours,” said Michael Cadore, second from right. At far right is Dr. Wayne Stein, the College Provost, second from left is Col. Mary L. Martin, DEOMI Commandant and far left is Ernie Jones, faculty.

**DEOMI PUBLIC AFFAIRS · MR. CHRISTOPHER CALKINS (321) 494-6208
366 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DRIVE · PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32925
READINESS...IS DEOMI'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE
BECOME A FRIEND OF DEOMI ON FACEBOOK AT
DEOMIPA@US.AE.MIL**