

**Second Annual H'COLA Honor Student Luncheon  
Historic Holy Family Center - August 4, 2012  
Mayor Van W. Johnson, Sr., Remarks**

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First, I like to thank H'COLA for initiating and hosting this event for the second straight year to give us opportunity to highlight the academic achievements of some of the top students in the Franklin County School district.

Secondly, it's an honor for me as mayor to extend a warm welcome to the friends, families, and parents of these high achievers to today's event.

As an elected official and looking from an economic standpoint, it's encouraging to see so many of our students doing so well academically.

Their hard work in the classroom gives us a renewed sense of hope as we face the challenges associated with creating a community that's both a good place to live and a good location for new businesses.

It's my belief that if we concentrate on improving the quality of life for the people who live within our communities, then we can accomplish the task of making our communities more attractive to outside businesses.

The education of our students is an important part of that quality of life, and now, more than ever quality of life has become a vital tool used to improve the economic conditions of a community.

Businesses with good paying jobs are more likely to move into an area where the workforces are well educated.

Therefore, I remain encouraged to see so many of you doing so well academically and in turn I encourage you to continue on that path.

Thank you!