

On Thursday, January 16th Family Connection-Communities In Schools of Hancock County, Inc. Executive Director Awarded three programs who are strong supporters of students birth to age (8) eight in the area of literacy and health. This award was made possible thru Georgia Family Connection, Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Hancock County, Inc. Early Childhood Literacy and Health Cohort with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Blank Foundation. Funds donated to the Hancock County Early Head Start, Head Start & Pre-K program will be used to assist and support the Head Start raised bed garden project. The Head Start Program received \$250.

The Ferst Foundation Early Literacy program that provides FREE books to children birth to age 5 received \$1500.00. Ms. Shearron Hamlin from Ferst Foundation was in attendance to receive this award. Currently, the Ferst Foundation is accepting registrations for students who have not registered. Applications can be picked up from the Family Connection's office and at the local Health Department.

Lastly, \$2500 was donated to the M.E. Lewis to support the Reading Lexile Program. The Lexile Framework is a scientific method used to match readers with the text. Students takes a standardized reading test which converts the reader's results to a Lexile Level for students from grades K-5. Funds will be used to purchase books for various levels of reading. Dr. Hart shared that students are aware of their levels and what level that they need to be performing on therefore, they are excited to move to the next level.

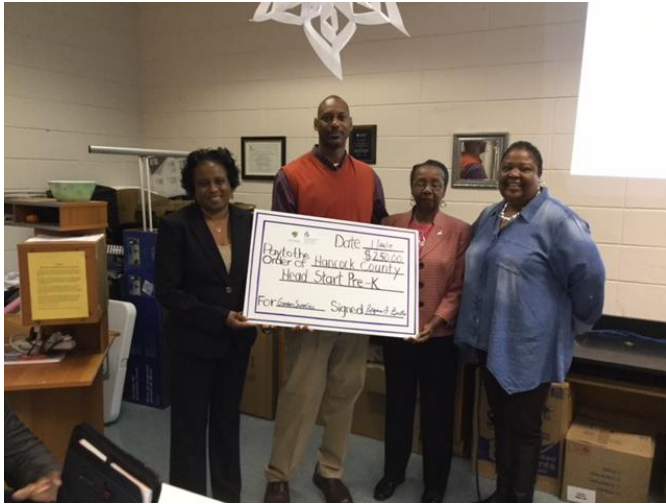
Dr. Norman Hart presented to the cohort a brief overview of the culture, climate and data for The M.E.Lewis. The M.E. Lewis belief is that "every child can succeed and become a productive citizen in society."

Family Connection-Communities in Schools of Hancock County, Inc. strives to work with partners to improve the lives of children and families in Hancock County.



Dr. Norman Hart Representing The M.E. Lewis Elementary School in the middle, left to right LaTunya Goodwin, Family Connection Board Member, Annie Ingram, Hancock County Board of

Education Chairlady, on end Regina Butts, Family Connection-Communities In Schools Executive Director



\$250 award to Hancock County Early Head Start, Head Start and Pre-K to Mrs. Betty Legette, Assistant Head Start Director and Mr. Gary Hill, Early Head Start Family Advocate, Annie Ingram, BOE Chairlady, Regina Butts, ED for Family Connection.



\$1500 award to Ferst Foundation for Early Childhood Reading. Left to right- Gary Hill- Board Member FCCIS, .LaTuyna Goodwin- Board Member FCCIS, Shearron Hamiln, Ferst Foundation, Annie Ingram-BOE Chairlady and Regina Butts, ED for FCCIS.