

EXTENSION SYSTEM GRANT

\$13K awarded to Autauga Character Coalition

Special to the Progress

The Prattville/Autauga Character Coalition will receive \$13,000 from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as a part of the 2007 Rural Alabama Initiative grant program.

The highly competitive grant selection process included 120 applications submitted for total requests of more than \$2,000,000. Based on multiple, independent reviews and a rigorous evaluation of the proposed grant budgets, 47 of the proposed projects were approved for a total of about \$500,000.

The Prattville/Autauga Character Coalition is a partnership with the Autauga County Office of Extension's Community Resource Development initiative, the city of Prattville, the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce and other local entities.

Funds from the grant, coupled with community support, have provided training for more than 70 individuals. Participants include the following: The Autauga County Commissioners Office, the city of Prattville, the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Autauga County Extension Office, Autaugaville

School, the town of Autaugaville, the Department of Human Resources, Prattville Baptist Hospital, the Juvenile Probation Office, attorney Tina Moon, Prattville Police and Fire departments, general government

city employees, Mary Helen Reynolds (home school), Autauga County Baptist Association, Retired Educators, Autauga County Family Support Center, Jackson Thornton, International Paper, PASS (Peers Are Straight), River Bank, Wilson Price and the Prattville Rotary Club.

The Character First program

is implemented through education in public, private and home schools; in business and industry; in faith-based organizations; in the media; and in government.

For information on ways to become involved in the character education program, contact Mary Beth Pritchard, executive director, at 365-7392.

To receive information on the 2008 Rural Alabama Initiative grant opportunities, e-mail your name, address, phone number and information about your organization to Yvonne D. Thomas at thomaydd@auburn.edu.