



**Tribal Contact:**

Wilma Simpson  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
PH (601) 650-1613  
FAX (601) 650-3684  
E-mail: Wilma.simpson@choctaw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2010

### **Chickaway and Bell Join ECCC Warrior Basketball Program**

CHOCTAW, Miss. – Delanda Chickaway and Justin Bell will join the East Central Community College Warrior basketball program. A ceremony was held in their honor at the Choctaw Central High School library on Monday, May 3, 2010. Jerry Hill served as the master of ceremonies. Dalton Henry, Tribal Education Services Officer, Dr. Greg Carlyle, CCHS principal, and Coach Walter Wilson, CCHS Athletic Director, each offered congratulations to the two students and wished them well in their careers at East Central.

Lady Warriors head basketball coach Jennie Vance spoke to the audience and told them that Chickaway was the main reason the team made it to the Big House. Lady Warriors assistant basketball coach Elyse Willis encouraged Chickaway to not give up and to keep working hard. Warriors head basketball coach Scott Thomas praised Bell for his strong playing spirit and said Bell was "small in stature, but big in heart."

Chickaway thanked coaches Vance and Willis for their encouragement, and she encouraged her teammates to keep their heads up. Bell said that the Warriors basketball team was the best team he had played on during his high school career.

ECCC basketball coaches Bill Smith (girls) and Maurice Bowie (boys) expressed their confidence in Chickaway and Bell.

Joshua Thomas, CCHS Student Body President, offered his congratulations to the two athletes.

The ceremony concluded with Chickaway and Bell taking pictures with their coaches, teammates, and family members.

###

*The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of over 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.*