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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Choctaw Central High School Announces Top Scholars

CHOCTAW, Miss. – (May 2, 2016) – Choctaw Central High School announced the top scholars for the Class of 2016. Once again the valedictorian was also named the STAR Student. The salutatorian is a young woman who is both a scholar and an athlete.

“It is always exciting to witness the extraordinary accomplishments our Tribal students have made,” said Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “Nicholas and Emilee and their peers demonstrate the type of exceptional academic excellence that is a long-standing tradition in the Choctaw Tribal Schools.”

This year’s Valedictorian and STAR Student honors go to Nicholas Raymark McMillian. He is the son of Lee and Sunni McMillian of the Pearl River Community. Nicholas had an active high school career. He served as President of the Pow Wow Committee, secretary of both his Senior Class and the Beta Club, is a member of the High School Green Team, Solar Car Team, ACT 20+ Club, is an active member of the Chahta Alla Youth Council and was named Philadelphia Rotary Club’s Student of the Month for November 2015. Nicholas also received many awards during his four years at Choctaw Central. This year alone he earned awards in AP English IV, Spanish II and Forensics. Academics and clubs aside, Nicholas was a four-year member of the CCHS Boys soccer team. The team made it to post season play for the first time in school history this year. This fall Nicholas will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In recognition of his academic achievements, Nicholas has received a General Dartmouth Scholarship and the ACT Tuition/Room Board Scholarship.

Nicholas also serves as this year’s STAR Student and named student favorite Jamie Franklin as STAR Teacher. This is Franklin’s second consecutive year being named STAR Teacher.

Salutatorian for the Class of 2016 is Emilee Ann Thames of the Pearl River Community. She is the daughter of Anthony and Sharon Thames. Emilee is a member of the Beta and ACT 20+ clubs. She was also named the Student of the Month for September by the Philadelphia Rotary Club. Emilee received the Calculus, U.S. Government and Spanish I Awards for her Senior Year at Choctaw Central High School. This fall Emilee will stay close to home and attend the University of Mississippi.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as high school principal," said CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon. "As shown through the accomplishments of these young people, college and career readiness is being achieved at high levels by our students"

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the leadership of Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, has an enrolled membership of more than 10,000 people and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in Choctaw, Miss., the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The tribe provides a range of governmental services including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, and a center for the elderly, among many others. Phyliss J. Anderson serves as the first female Chief in Mississippi Choctaw history.



