

## **Student recognized for leadership**

A Highland School of Technology senior is one of the top student anti-violence advocates in the state.

Haley Abernathy is one of two national students of the year, as named by Students Against Violence Everywhere, a youth-led school anti-violence organization. The award recognizes standout individuals for their efforts and leadership in preventing violence in schools and communities. She received the award at the organization's annual summit in Raleigh on Saturday.

Abernathy has been a member of the organization's national student council for three years. She has served as president of the council for the past two years.

She has led initiatives reading to elementary school children, volunteering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Gaston, coordinating a prom for senior citizens and delivering Valentine cards to homeless shelters.

At Saturday's summit, Abernathy and several students from the Highland School of Technology chapter taught a session on collaboration and how it is beneficial to reducing violence in the community. More than 300 students from across the country attended the summit.