



## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING STUDENTS GRADUATE

MAYHEW – East Mississippi Community College held commencement exercises July 15 for its latest class of Licensed Practical Nursing graduates. Fifteen new nurses took part in the graduation ceremony at the Lyceum auditorium at EMCC's Golden Triangle campus.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Keith Watson of West Point. Watson, a pediatrician affiliated with North Mississippi Medical Center, assisted in the training of the class. He had three pieces of advice for the graduates.

"First, remember why you went into this field. You wanted a career where you could help people. You're there to take care of another human being who trusts you," Watson said.

"Next, be human. People don't want a robot who walks into a room, spits out a bunch of big words and then leaves. They want a person taking care of them. Finally, always remember it's OK to say, 'I don't know.' You can say it to doctors, to other nurses and to patients. It's never wrong to say 'I don't know,' but it's always wrong not to find out the answer. I learn something every day."

The graduates were:

- Choctaw County: Taffi Henning of French Camp
- Clay County: Starneka Parson, Lisa Pickett and Janai Smith, all of West Point
- Lowndes County: Jemma Cuevas, Wanda Foster, Mallory Jones, Ashley Morris and Tamatha Tate (honors), all of Columbus
- Noxubee County: Amanda Misso of Macon (honors)
- Oktibbeha County: Rita Afanasjeva, Marion Koch and Tiffany Warren, all of Starkville
- Webster County: Karen Stone of Mathiston
- Winston County: Gwen Shepperd of Louisville (honors)

Lisa Pickett of West Point won the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing. Pickett starts a new job July 19 at the West Point Women's Clinic. She plans to work for several years as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and then return to East Mississippi Community College to pursue a degree as a Registered Nurse.

For more information about EMCC nursing programs, call (662) 243-1910.

### In the photo: LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

The latest graduates of EMCC's Licensed Practical Nursing program are, first row from left, Karen Stone of Mathiston, Starneka Parson of West Point, Gwen Shepperd of Louisville, Ashley Morris of Columbus, Jemma Cuevas of Columbus, Lisa Pickett of West Point and Tamatha Cole of Columbus. In the second row are Marion Koch of Starkville, Mallory Jones of Columbus, Amanda Misso of Macon, Taffi Henning of French Camp, Janai Smith of West Point, Wanda Foster of Columbus, Rita Afanasjeva of Starkville and Tiffany Warren of Starkville.