



## Woodson Grads, Best Friends Receive Awards

Total Sunshine Honors Top Seniors In D.C.

Sarafina Wright | 6/17/2015, 3 p.m.



David Wynn and Christopher Chandler are the 2015 salutatorian and valedictorian of H.D. Woodson Sr. High class of 2015. PHOTO BY SHEVRY LASSITER

The 7th annual Total Sunshine School Grade Rewards Ceremony honored H.D. Woodson High School seniors salutatorian David Wynn, 18 and valedictorian Christopher Chandler, 17, best friends and future electrical engineers on Thursday, June 11 at Roosevelt High School.

Chandler and Wynn will be in the “3-2” engineering program, Wynn at Morehouse College and Chandler at Emory University in Atlanta. This will allow them to graduate in five years with two degrees.

“The 3-2 program allows us to do three years at one school and then for the last two years we will be at Georgia Tech. So the first degree will be a science degree and the second one will be in engineering,” Chandler said.

Valedictorian Chandler is a Gates Millennium Scholar where all five years of his academic career including graduate school will be paid for by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. “Growing up I use to draw a lot. I would always take things apart and put them back together. I was curious about how these tech devices worked. People would always tell me I should put my skills to use,” Chandler said.

Salutatorian Wynn who will minor in business communications plans to start his own engineering business in the future. “When I was younger my father always worked on computers and always has computers around, so I naturally became interested in them,” Wynn said. Chandler and Wynn met in the tenth grade and they have been competing ever since “We have the same interests and want to be the best at everything, we compete in school, basketball – everything. It just makes us better.” Wynn said.

As best friends the young men are glad they have each other to lean on while they are away from home as college students. “We will be able to help each other. He can use my resources and I can use his,” Wynn said. Total Sunshine is a non-profit organization based in D.C. whose mission is to support students in education towards positive outcomes while changing behaviors from negative to positive. Its founder, Marilyn C. Holmes, says she is motivated to honor the salutatorians and valedictorians of The District high schools because there needs to be more focus on those who are doing well.

“We always hear about the negative that’s going on with students here in Washington – we want to shine a light on the positive and honor them for their accomplishments,” Holmes said.

The top seniors were awarded with a Total Sunshine book bag, HP tablet, eBook, free hair salon service from C. Alan Salon and an exclusive interview with the Total Sunshine television show. These gifts were made possible by donations, sponsors and Robert Griffin III’s foundation “Family of 3.” “We are really appreciative of the last minute support of Robert Griffin’s foundation. The foundation supported us for tech tools,” Holmes said.

Griffin sent a video message to the students congratulating them and asking them to bring the education they acquire back to their communities. “We have people who say a lot of bad things about our school and about our community. They say our school hands out fake diplomas and things like that, so we take any opportunity to represent our school and our community,” Chandler said.