

Life support: CAPPAs helps youths believe in themselves, but only with community's help



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Lock Haven University junior Kelly Cramer of Williamsport, middle, helps fourth- and fifth-graders with their math during CAPPAs Academic Support program at Cochran Elementary School. Cramer is part of a group of local college students who help students enrolled in CAPPAs arts program with their studies.

By STEPHANIE FARR
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Anthropologist Sir John Lubbock once said: "What we see depends mainly upon what we look for."

That may be true, but for Loni Gamble, executive director of the Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action (CAPPAs), helping children look toward the future means helping them see themselves in a positive light today.

The theme of CAPPAs's talent Showcase this year is "Raising Expectations," which is a natural progression from last year's

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What is the best part about being a CAPPAs mentor?



"For us, it's feeling as if you're making a difference. You're not just being a thermometer, you're being a thermostat."

Troy Mobley, 43,
office information technology
major at Pennsylvania
College of Technology



"Knowing that the kids know me by name now is pretty special."

Calvin Gilchrist, 22
business major at Lock Haven
University



"I can relate ... I was the same way when I was younger and I didn't have anyone to go to. It's one of the best things I've done as a college student so far."

Mario Gonzalez, 21,
criminal justice major at Lock
Haven University