COURTESY PHOTO/LARRY GEE

Four high school students prepare to board an American Eagle flight bound for Colonial Williamsburg, Va., Thursday. From left are Sarah Lechich, MacArthur High; Lameisha Howard, Lawton High; Jonathan Phelps, Lawton Christian; and Robert Sharp, Eisenhower High; Royalin Melton, American Eagle employee; and Jack O. Johnson, Downtown Kiwanis. The trip to a leadership conference is being funded by the General Critz Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, Downtown Kiwanis and American Eagle Airlines.

Lawton students selected to attend leadership conference

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Four students from city high schools left Lawton on Thursday for a leadership seminar at historic Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

The students selected for the all-expenses-paid trip are Sarah Lynn Lechich, MacArthur High School; Jonathan Phelps, Lawton Christian School; Robert Sharp, Eisenhower High School; and LaMeisha Howard, Lawton High School.

The trip is being sponsored by the Downtown Kiwanis Club, the General Critz Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) and American Eagle Airlines.

"The seminar is hosted by the American Independence Foundation of Colonial Virginia and will consist of four days of unforgettable activities, speakers, historic tours and just plain old fun," said Jack O. Johnson, of the Downtown Kiwanis. "The students will learn from several historic leaders (portrayed by re-enactors) whose great leadership established our country and helped define our freedoms. The students also will see how these leaders built our nation during tours of Historic Jamestown, the Jamestown Settlement, Colonial Williamsburg and the Yorktown Victory Center and Battlefield."

MOWW has been sending students to leadership conferences for more than 20 years. The Downtown Kiwanis Club has been helping sponsor students for the three years. This year American Eagle Airlines is providing air travel assistance.

"It is a real pleasure and honor to be able to help send these deserving students to such a unique learning experience," said Christine Davis, general manager of American Eagle.

MOWW also will be sending students to leadership seminars at the University of Central Oklahoma and on board the U.S.S. Lexington Museum, an aircraft carrier permanently moored in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"More than 20 students will be selected to represent their schools and the Lawton Community at these leadership seminars," Johnson said.