

WEST WINDSOR

## Grant to help TCHS students attend college

At a ceremony on the Mercer County Community College campus on Wednesday, the State Farm Youth Advisory Board presented a check for \$38,500 to fund a service-learning project called **Discovering Options** that will help Trenton Central High School students prepare for college. During the presentation, four students who took part in writing the grant spoke in detail to an audience of trustees, State Farm representatives, community partners, faculty and staff about their plan to help the high schoolers. The four students are part of a 45-member **MCCC** service-learning program called LEADS (Leadership, Engagement, Academics, Determination and Service-Learning), which will work directly with the high school students each week, focusing on college selection, college tours, financial aid literacy, SAT preparation and life skills. The project begins this month and will continue

through June 2015. After-school tutoring will take place at the high school on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and a "College Club" will meet Wednesday evenings, bringing in representatives to speak on pertinent topics. One of the requirements for State Farm's grants is that students conceive a project and assist in writing the grant. Under the guidance of Khalida Haqq, MCCC's director of PASS (Programs for Academic Services and Success), four of the college's LEADS students each researched a part of the project and came together to write the proposal. LEADS students who worked on the writing project, Latrial Jackson, Sharon Herrera, Shanique Stoddard and Sade Carmichael, all attend MCCC through the NJSTARS program. The students have asked professionals in higher education and at the high school to serve as program advisers and have established partnerships with MCCC's Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search programs and Princeton University's Preparatory Program. They also plan to involve fellow TCHS alumni.

