Work-Based Learning/ Youth Apprenticeship Students on the Move

Youth Apprenticeship Teaching As A Profession Graduate Receives Scholarship

On September 20, 2019, Perry High School graduate, Jeremiah Whitfield (class of 2019), was presented a scholarship check from Mr. Clarke of Tyrian Masonic Lodge #111 of Warner Robins, Georgia. During the check presentation, Mr. Clarke gave his best wishes for a bright future as Jeremiah pursues a degree in Early Childhood Education in hopes of becoming an elementary school teacher.

While in high school, Jeremiah took Teaching as a Profession classes at Houston County Career Academy. He was also one of the few students selected by the Houston County Board of Education to work with a certified teacher for his junior and his senior years. During his time in the classroom, Jeremiah created and taught many wonderful standards based lessons to Tucker Elementary School students. His classroom experience solidified his vision of becoming a career teacher. Jeremiah’s future is bright.

West-Central Region YAP Completer Excels

John King, 2019 graduate of Northside High School, Warner Robins, Georgia, is excelling in BMW school. As a matter of fact, he is making all As, according to BMW representative, Ryan Spann.

John began his automotive career by taking automotive classes at Houston County Career Academy in Warner Robins. He then joined the Youth Apprenticeship Program as an automotive technician for Hughes Honda of Warner Robins, where he received top ratings from his supervisors. Because of John’s passion for high end imports, he was able to move to a new automotive technician job at BMW of Macon located in Macon. Since joining BMW, John has continued to excel and was so highly regarded by his superiors that he was offered the opportunity to attend BMW school. John is taking advantage of every opportunity to learn all he can about the cars of his passion. He plans to complete BMW school and return BMW of Macon to continue his career as a certified BMW automotive technician.
Houston County Career Academy Student Shows Off Culinary Skills

On September 11, 2019, Houston County Career Academy Culinary student, Jaiah Spight (pictured above), gave a dazzling culinary demonstration to Summer’s Landing residents (pictured below), as a part of National Assisted Living Week which was September 9 - 13. Jaiah, bronze medal winner in FCCLA National Competition held this past summer in Anaheim, California, was excited to share her ratatouille recipe and preparation. Residents were offered samples and just raved over the fresh vegetable tastes in the dish.

Assisting Jaiah was her Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, Sandi Couillard, who added additional information about the Houston County Career Academy and polled the residents about what they would liked demonstrated in future events. Upon graduation from Warner Robins High School in May of 2020, Jaiah plans to enter a culinary arts school and pursue a culinary career.

Work-Based Learning - Youth Apprenticeship

Meet Northside High School and Work Based Learning Student, Dylan Pope

Dylan Pope works at Cast Iron Catering in Macon where he is a server. His job responsibilities include: setting up the tables, tableware, food, providing a cake cutting service and bussing the tables.

Last year he had the opportunity to work one of their events and enjoyed it so much, he asked to work another event and the rest is history. “A family friend introduced me to the company and I really enjoyed the rush of putting an event together,” says Pope. He is now a part of their core staff for all events including the 2019 Bollywood Ball for the International Cherry Blossom Festival, Mercer Athletic events in addition to weddings and various corporate events. “At every event I work, I learn something new,” says Pope.

Pope completed the Financial Services pathway. He said “the financial information I learned in the classroom helped me understand the business side of the catering job, it all makes more sense now.”

Pictured below (l to r) are: Bollywood Event table set-up, Bollywood Menu and Cast Iron Catering Staff at the event.
Walker Cooper is currently an intern for the Houston County Board of Education's Information Technology Department. During his four months of work, Walker has been traveling to many different schools around the southern part of Houston County and working with the technicians at each school. He was able to obtain this job through the Youth Apprenticeship Program, which allows him to get out of school early to go to work. He took this job because he has an interest in computers and technology and was eligible for YAP because he had taken high school courses to build his skills. Walker has learned much more about technology such as how it runs in schools and how IT problems are solved in the professional world. He plans to continue working in the IT field and one day have a job as an Information Technology Specialist.

On Thursday, May 2, 2019, Youth Apprenticeship Student, Chanel Strong, was honored to give the prayer for the HCBOE School Nutrition End of the Year Awards Banquet held at Thomson Middle School. Chanel, a Warner Robins High School senior, is a first year Youth Apprenticeship student who works in the HCBOE School Nutrition Department. Taking culinary arts classes and having a love for the nutritional aspects of food made Chanel a perfect fit for the paid part-time position in school nutrition. After attending college, Chanel plans to one day open her own bakery.

Chanel is pictured at right with Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Houston County Schools.
Jackson Riddle is an aspiring actor who is currently working as a theatre intern at Perry High School through Work-Based Learning. This is his second year as an intern. Jackson helps with building sets, cutting scripts, designing and making costumes, and any other odd jobs around the theatre. Jackson decided to be a theatre intern because his future goals include going to college and majoring in theatre performance/acting and becoming a full-time actor. Jackson says there is nothing that will ever fill his heart the way acting does, which is why he plans on pursuing it in the future. Last year, Jackson was one of eight cast in the South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC) winning the show, THE TERRIBLE INFANTS. The show went against 19 other schools from the 10 southeastern states where it was awarded BEST PLAY and Jackson was awarded ALL STAR CAST. This year, he became senior class president, while also being awarded BEST ACTOR in Region 2 4AAAA and ALL STAR CAST at the State competition for his role as Player One and Henry Poe in NEVERMORE.

Perry High School is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry, Georgia. Mr. Wesley “Del” Martin serves as Principal.

Roots Turf and Ornamental Supports Students in Houston County

On May 21, 2019, Kyle Gore and Jared Icard from Roots Turf and Ornamental visited Houston County Career Academy (HCCA) to interview Northside High School Agriculture student, J. "Bryce" Gates. They also presented a check to HCCA in the amount of $500 for Career, Technical, Student Organizations (CTSOs) to use in support of student excellence. Bryce was hired and will begin his job with Roots next month as a part of the Youth Apprenticeship Program. Sandi Couillard, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator for Houston County, will monitor Bryce's progress as he gains valuable work experience in the area of his career interest.

Pictured (left to right): Jared Icard, Roots, Sabrina Phelps, HCCA Principal, Bryce Gates, and Kyle Gore
On December 9, 2019, Lt. Governor Geoff Duncan celebrated College and Career Academies across Georgia by hosting the 12th Annual Business and Education Summit at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville, Georgia. Surrounded by educators, students and business leaders, Duncan congratulated the award winners and recognized the significant impact College and Career Academies are having throughout Georgia.

"Workforce development is a huge part of what has made Georgia the best place to live and work," Duncan said. "College and Career Academies play a huge role in attracting new businesses to Georgia, and it is an honor to celebrate the hard work and achievements of those associated with this great program. My office looks forward to working alongside the educators and business leaders who have devoted their time, resources and expertise to put Georgia second to none in workforce development."

Award Winners Include:

Students of the Year: (1st place) Ja’Nyia Maloy - Houston County College and Career Academy; (2nd place) Diego Calderon - Northwest Georgia College and Career Academy; (3rd place) Levi Johnson - Houston County College and Career Academy.

Business Partner of the Year: King and Prince Seafood, Brunswick.

College and Career Academy of the Year: Griffin Region College and Career Academy.

GCCAP12 Grant Awardees: Jones County College and Career Academy; Fitzgerald High School College and Career Academy; IGNITE College and Career Academy (Sumter County); EMPOWER College and Career Academy (Jackson County).

CCA Approved Certifications: Calhoun City College and Career Academy; THINC College and Career Academy (LaGrange); Southeastern Early College and Career Academy (Vidalia); Polk County College and Career Academy (Rockmart); Liberty College and Career Academy (Hinesville).

Houston County Career Academy is located at 1311 Corder Road in Warner Robins, Georgia. Sabrina Phelps serves as Principal.
Youth Apprenticeship

Houston County Career Academy’s First Youth Apprenticeship Hiring Fair A Great Success

The mission of Houston County Career Academy (HCCA) is to ensure a viable 21st Century workforce for Houston County. Classes taught at HCCA equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for success in their future scholastic and career endeavors. The Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) offers students opportunities to gain valuable work experiences to combine classroom instruction and real world applications. It was in consideration of the mission of HCCA and the purpose of YAP that the hiring fair was conceptualized.

After planning the event, Sandi Couillard, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator for Houston County Schools, met with HCCA instructors to go over the plan and to gather student nominations for the fair. Students were then assembled to meet with Mrs. Couillard to go over the purpose and plan for the event. Students were also scheduled to meet with Mrs. Couillard on several different dates to complete resume revisions and to go over interview skills. Students were also required to have his/her interview attire approved prior to the event. Employers were invited to sign up for dates they would attend.

On April 23, 2019 and April 26, 2019 the Youth Apprenticeship Hiring Fair was held in Hibbitts Hall at HCCA. On the first day Buzzell Heating and Air, Pierce Parts and Service, Houston Healthcare, Plum Cool, Tyson Foods, Pruett Air, and Summer’s Landing interviewed 44 student participants. On the second day, Hoke’s Heating and Air, Conditioned Air, Yancey Brothers, Interfor, Keadle Heating and Air, Navicent Health, and HCBOE Bus Barn attended to interview 18 students. On interview days, ten students were hired, including two graduating seniors. Several students are taking part in follow-up interviews and are still being considered for hiring. A few students have already completed hiring paperwork and have begun working.
Houston County Career Academy’s First Youth Apprenticeship Hiring Fair A Great Success

Those students who are not graduating in May, 2019, will return to school next year as members of the Youth Apprenticeship Program which allows students to leave school early each day to go to work.

Employer reviews of the event were good and all employers expressed interest in attending next year’s fair.

Students waiting - students Chandler Brown, Ni'Kerious Askew, Kelsey Seely, Samiya Dent, Marley Lindsey, Chad Simmons and Gaven Karpowicz

Summers Landing (Melissa LaFave)

Interfor Felisia Burke

Plum Cool - Anthony Williams and Samantha Bemis

HHC - Kasey Osborn and Angela Miller (student)

Pierce Parts - Joe Pierce and Susan Newsome

Hoke’s - Jacob Bar (student) and Hoke Morrow, Jr.

Keadle Heating and Air - Levi Johnson (student), Ken Keadle, Starr Rumph, and Skylar Kicks (student)