



RTC NEWS: WE START CAREERS



Second Issue 2021

RICHMOND TECHNICAL CENTER

Governor's STEM Academy Virtual Student Contact with Dr. Donald A. Thomas, former NASA Astronaut

Mr. Rodrick Davis,
Technology Teacher
for the Governor's
STEM Academy and
NASA
Opportunity



Donald A. Thomas, Ph.D. and Former NASA Astronaut

Richmond Technical Center students experienced a virtual interview with a NASA Astronaut and an American Engineer, Dr. Donald Thomas. November 9-13, 2020 Technology students in Mr. Rodrick Davis' classes had an opportunity to interact with an astronaut and engineer.

Mr. Davis stated, "This meet and greet with Dr. Don Thomas was made possible by the WorldStrides organization. They provide engineering and science related trips for students to travel all around the world. I was able to take a couple of students to San Francisco with WorldStrides two summers ago, and it was loads of fun. Since we are in these times of Covid, the company is still trying to provide opportunities to students across the US." Education and personal growth are the heart of WorldStrides' mission – and they have been since the beginning. Founded in 1967 by a middle school social studies teacher from Chicago who discovered the incredible power of education outside the classroom while traveling to Washington, D.C. with his students, the company has since grown to become a leader in experiential learning for students of all ages throughout their lifetime learning journey."

Letter from RTC Principal, Mr. Jonathan Mitchum

Dear RTC Colleagues, Families, and Community:

Teaching and learning are very different this year, but our learners, teachers, and families are adjusting and accomplishing many educational goals. I am extremely proud of them. As the instructional leader, I have observed staff and students' flexibility in accepting virtual learning, and embracing obstacles we are facing with a positive strong attitude.

Thank you for keeping educational pursuits as priority, and never giving up. You are doing your best during these unprecedented times.

Remember, we are here to always help you, and no problem is too small. We understand how valuable you are and will make every attempt to assist with any concerns or challenges.

Final Thoughts: As Richmond Technical School's Principal, I have endeavored to establish an open-door policy with all members of our larger learning community. I am committed to continuing that philosophy. I genuinely look forward to hearing your questions, comments, and/or concerns and will always make time to accommodate them. I can be reached at

jmitchum@rvaschools.net

Sincerely,
Jonathan Mitchum



or by phone at 804-780-6237.



Congratulations On Students' Accomplishments

Ty'Quan Jenkins is a junior at Armstrong High School and a first year Barbering student. He is one of Mrs. Woodson's top students. Ty'Quan is the first one logging into class and always willing to help his fellow classmates. Even though Mrs. Woodson is teaching him the techniques of barbering through virtual learning, he has managed to perform a hair-cut. His first haircut was on his brother. Ty'Quan said, "I was nervous."

Pictures submitted by Ms. Angela Moore



Ty'Quan Jenkins, RTC Barbering ! student
Job well done!



New COVID-19 Variants

Information about the characteristics of these variants is rapidly emerging. Scientists are working to learn more about how easily they might spread, whether they could cause more severe illness, and whether currently authorized vaccines will protect people against them.

CASES ARE RISING.
ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

W R T C S T A T I O N @ Richmond Technical Center

In Mrs. Woodson's class, Mr. McLeod uses a new and innovative way of delivering the current virtual learning and instruction methods by engaging students using a mock classroom radio station set up and using his radio name "Brian King" from his high school days. We have named the station WRTC. The students enjoy it and everyone comes in on time to participate in the community circle question. "We have seen an increase in participation since we started this educational initiative." says Mrs. Moore, the Instructional Assistant for Barbering I and II. Mrs. Woodson commented, "I am glad to have this energy in our classes; it really helps with the rest of class time teaching."

Photo submitted by A. Moore



Featuring "Brian King" Better known as Mr. Charles McLeod, RTC Instructor



. Check out Mrs. Woodson's class and the WRTC Radio Station.



Our first introduction to the wonderful careers through the Newport News Shipbuilding Apprenticeship program was in October 2019. Newport News Shipbuilding is one of only two shipyards capable of designing and building nuclear-powered submarines. Newport News Shipbuilding is the sole designer and builder of aircraft carriers for the U.S. Navy. Construction is well underway for the next-generation class of aircraft carriers and ballistic missile submarines. They also provide design and engineering services and fleet maintenance support around the world.

This great information was shared with teachers and students. Twenty-three students applied for their apprenticeship entry-level positions. Their Human Resources team came to RTC and interviewed the interested students in February 2020. From March to September 21, 2020, these students were challenged with the COVID-19 restrictions. All communications became virtual and failure to respond to requests to initiate background investigations got some removed from the list for consideration. Fear of relocating themselves to the Tidewater area was another reason for others to remove themselves from consideration. Failure to pass the physical agility test, medical examination or drug test eliminated others from progressing to the final steps. Delays in receiving final offers came from replacing lost documents like pictured identification cards, birth certificates and social security cards.

In spite of all of these challenges, four of these graduating seniors passed all tests, received offers and have reported to their respective Newport News Shipbuilders Apprenticeship Program. All of them have successfully relocated to Newport News staying in their first apartments just a short distance from the beach areas of Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The starting pay for each of them was \$18+ an hour. We wish each of them the very best in the future endeavors.

These young persons were **Akeem Ward** who completed the Carpentry I, II program at the RTC while graduating from Armstrong High School June 2020. He started on September 2020.

Taijuan Graham completed the Welding I, II program at RTC and graduated from Huguenot High School in June 2020. He started August 2020.

Marquise Dunbar completed the Sports Medicine I, II at the RTC and graduated from Huguenot High School in June 2020. He started in September 2020.

Jeremiyah Prince completed the RPS Governor's STEM Academy at the RTC and graduated from Huguenot High School in June 2020. He started in September 2020.

Submitted by Mr. Charles Watson

RTC**Career Readiness Event****Career Skills at RTC**Strengthening Skills for Career Success

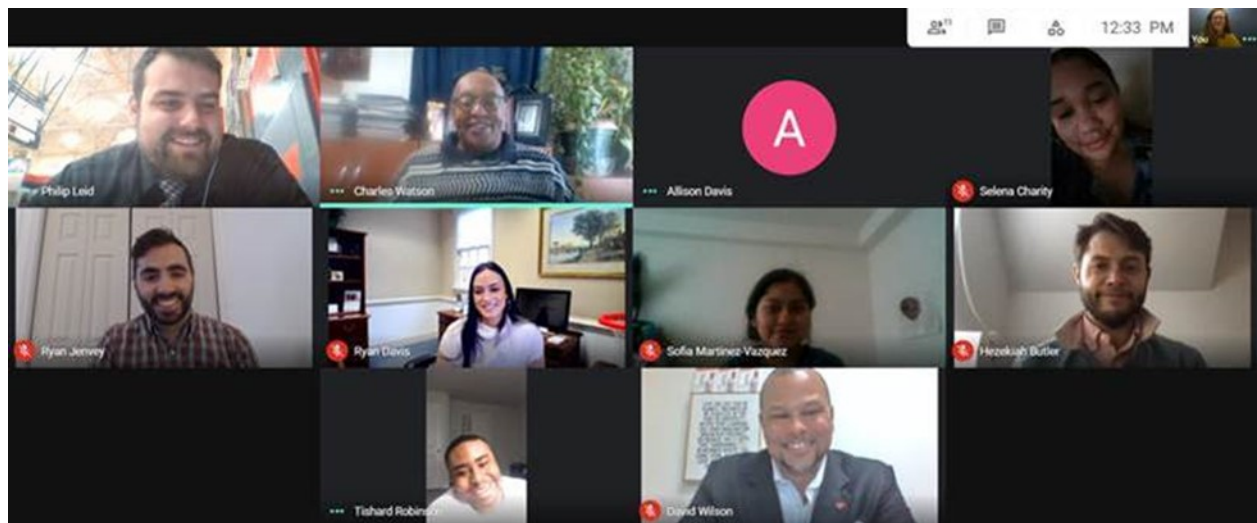
National Career and Technical Education is celebrated in February. Even though we are virtual, we are still responsible for preparing our juniors and seniors for transitioning successfully after high school. The Richmond Technical Center (RTC) is making sure that our students are career ready. Through the partnership with United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, they have recruited business and community volunteers from various organizations to assist our students with creating and updating resumes and improving their interviewing and soft skills. This Strengthening Skills for Career Success event was scheduled from February 16-26th whereas there were fourteen 90- minute sessions by which these young persons were mentored and coached by 67 wonderful volunteers and 3 interpreters.



Submission by Charles Watson

Strengthening Skills for Career Success

MENTORS - **I**nterpreters - **C**OACHES



Strengthening Skills for Career Success

MENTORS - Interpreters - COACHES

Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce

Chamber RVA (HYPE & Mentor Programs)

Common House

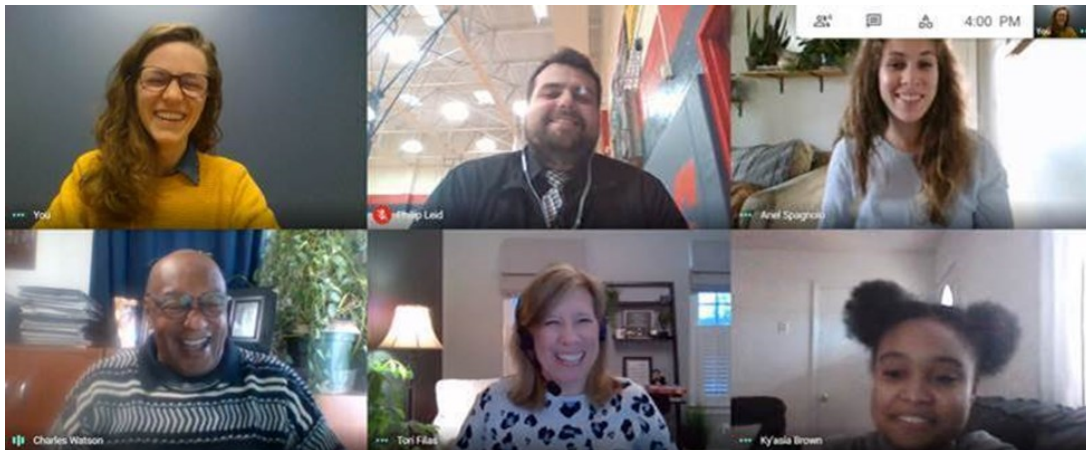
Mercer

Principal

Sands Anderson

Sentry

United Way



Photos submitted by Charles Watson

CHRISTMAS GIFTS GIVEN TO RTC STUDENTS

Mr. Dremon Miller's Acts of Kindness

In December, Mr. Miller prepared gift bags and presents with holiday goodies for his students in Criminal Justice. He was able to give 32 gifts, in total, to his students. Mr. Miller received donations from McDonald's, Arby's, Chick Fil A, Papa John's, Ms. Angela Moore, Toni's Hair Boutique, and other individual supporters. Each gift was personally delivered to students' home where he was able to meet each student and their parents/guardians. The students were excited and very appreciative and enjoyed their free food coupons, eye lashes, lip gloss, mirrors, combs, gloves, games, candy, and so much more.



Photos provided by Mr.
Dremon Miller



SPOTLIGHT ON RTC STUDENTS

Ms. Woodson and Ms. Moore

Students that are now certified in Barbicide are shown here. Let's celebrate them for accomplishing their goals. Barbicide is known worldwide as the ultimate product for EPA registered **disinfection** in salons, barbershops and spas.

Ms. Woodson has six students who successfully became certified in this important work in barbering.



Images provided by Ms. Angela Moore

What You Need To Know About COVID-19

#STOPTHESPREAD

7 Steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19

- 01** Wash your hands frequently
- 02** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- 03** Cover your mouth when you cough using a tissue or the bend of your elbow
- 04** Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone who has fever or cough
- 05** Stay home if you feel unwell
- 06** Seek medical care early if you have a fever, coughs, and difficulty breathing—but call first
- 07** Get information from trusted sources

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

“The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity”

"Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced"

Black History Month

Remembered

February 1—March 1, 2021

“, , ,only when it is dark enough can we see the stars”

-Martin Luther King, Jr. (Final Speech)



CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 1-31, 2021

My mother would say, ‘Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last.’ -Kamala Harris



Vice President Kamala Harris, First USA Elected Woman and First Women of Color to Hold this Office



			
Liz Doerr 1st District	Mariah White 2nd District	Kenya Gibson 3rd District	
			
Jonathan Young Vice Chair 4th District	Stephanie Rizzi 5th District	Shonda Harris-Muhammed 6th District	
			
Cheryl Burke Chair 7th District	Dawn Page 8th District	Nicole Jones 9th District	

Superintendent Jason Kamras



Tracy Epp, Chief Academic Officer



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability. In accordance with the law, it is the policy of the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) to provide equal treatment and access to programs, services, and activities to individuals with disabilities. RPS also does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices to qualified individuals. RPS is also dedicated to creating awareness of social obstacles and unconscious discrimination of those with disabilities.

Richmond Public Schools ADA Statement

Richmond Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals with disabilities, or in any aspect of their operations. RPS also does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the ADA Coordinator.