



Issue 3 September 2018

RICHMOND TECHNICAL CENTER

RTC's Agriculture and Construction Clusters Awarded a Future Farmers of America (FFA) *Living to Serve* Grant

Richmond Technical Center (RTC)'s Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter will address local urban food deserts in low-income communities by building cold frames (think miniature unheated greenhouses heated by the sun only but adequate for early and late growing of vegetable and flower crops) for Peter Paul Development Center (PPDC) and the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC). Both the agriculture sciences and carpentry programs will spearhead this effort to build on last year's successful produce-raising and distribution efforts by hosting distribution



events at PPDC's food pantry, a Community Day at the Neighborhood Resource Center, and by providing educational activities focused on agriculture and nutrition for patrons and children at both facilities.

PPDC is an established non-profit located within Richmond's 19 subsidized housing projects. Among their services, they expose children to a variety of foods so that they become familiar with them, and thus, will eat them. To enhance this effort, PPDC has a children's garden so that students can see where their food comes from and grow into gardeners themselves. This lays the groundwork for the cognitive links needed to understand that foods consumed directly impact overall health; it expands the children's familiarity with a variety of produce as well.

Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) has more recently become a staple to many Fulton Hill residents. It was built to combat drugs, crime, financial issues, and obesity by providing a variety of educational resources and classes to residents. They currently have two community gardens that are managed by NRC staff with the help of local residents and children. The community members and staff recognize the positive role the community garden plays in children's education while also providing fresh produce for their food pantry. PPDC and NRC agree that having cold frames would enable them to expand their fresh produce production during winter months. It's full speed ahead for this exciting project!

Letter from RTC Interim Principal, Mr. Jonathan Mitchum

Welcome Richmond Technical Center family and stakeholders,

I hope that you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer! As I begin my fifth year as an administrator at Richmond Technical Center, I am particularly grateful for the blessing of this community of staff, students and families in my life, and I am eager to work with you again.

The summer was spent working hard to strengthen and enrich our academic program, fortify our identity in the community, and put systems in place that will increase our youth apprenticeship program. We are proud and excited to support the new attendance policy adopted by our school board, and we will strive daily to make sure students are at school and successful.

As always, it is our ultimate goal to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our students. To that end, we have had new cameras and monitors installed in our building. Safety expectations and procedures have been updated and placed in every classroom. Our staff will receive an in-depth training on Richmond Public Schools' safety procedures.

Let us begin this school year with our students the same way we begin every day: grounded in the mission of our school division. It is truly a privilege to be a part of a community where parents, teachers, and students care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Feel free to contact me at 804-780-6237 or jmitchum@rvaschools.net.

Once again, welcome back! Let's make this a great year at Richmond Technical Center.

Sincerely,

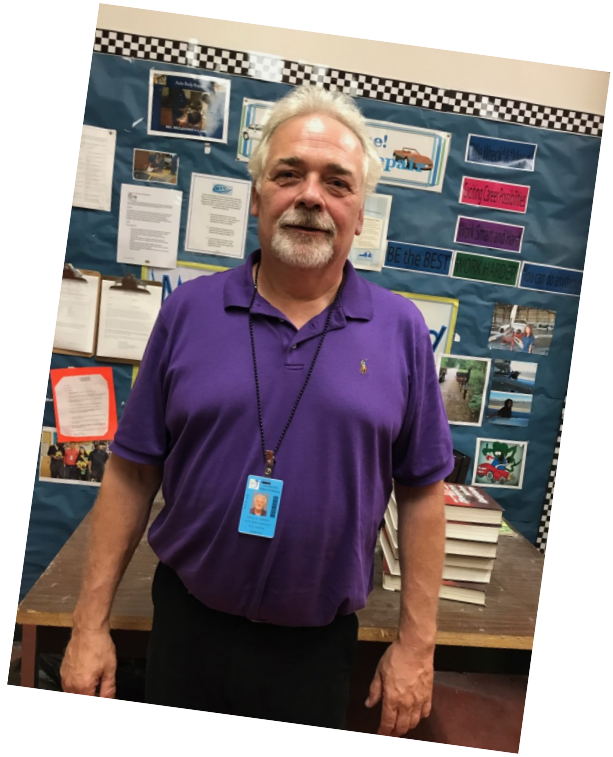
Jonathan Mitchum

Interim Principal



RTC Welcomes New Auto Body Mechanics Instructor, Mr. Craig Harris

RTC welcomes a new auto body mechanics teacher, Mr. Craig Harris. Mr. Harris has over thirty years of experience in auto body work, fiberglass work, and vehicle restoration. He also has extensive experience in fiberglass repair and gel-coating repair service for boats, jet skis, and Corvettes. Prior to starting a career in teaching, Mr. Harris worked for Collision One in Mechanicsville, VA and McGeorge Mercedes/Toyota in Henrico County. Mr. Harris was born and raised in Richmond, primarily in the West End, and attended Henrico County Public Schools. Mr. Harris lives in Beaverdam, VA with his wife and enjoys anything having to do with salt water! He enjoys salt water fishing and is a certified diver. When asked why he has entered the teaching field, Mr. Harris replied, "It is time to pass on my knowledge to the younger generation." Welcome, Mr. Harris!



RTC Welcomes New Office Associate III, Ms. Sheila Singleton



RTC welcomes new office associate III, Ms. Sheila Singleton. Although Ms. Singleton is new to RTC, she is not new to Richmond Public Schools. She started in 2009 with RPS as a career changer and has worked in many capacities, including instruction. Ms. Singleton has a daughter who works in RPS at George Wythe High School as the History Chair and Geography Instructor. Ms. Singleton has one grandson who calls her "Nana." In her free time, she loves to garden and spend money! Born and raised in Richmond, VA, Ms. Singleton graduated from John Marshall High School, then went on to earn a B.S. in biology from Virginia Union University and an M.S. in Personnel and Human Resources Management from American University. Ms. Singleton states, "I look forward to working with each of you while here at the Richmond Technical Center." Please welcome her to the RTC family!



GRASP Assists Students and Families with College and Scholarship Searches

Welcome Back Faculty and Students from your GRASP Advisor! Howard Price

GRASP is a college access program that assists students and their families in obtaining funding for post-secondary education.

GRASP will help students and their families with the financial aid process- completing the FAFSA -FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID. GRASP may also assist in college searches as well as scholarship searches. GRASP also awards many scholarships. GRASP may also help in inspiring students to believe that secondary and post-secondary education are obtainable.

The GRASP Advisor will be at RTC -South on Monday and Tuesday from 8-1 and RTC- North on Thursday from 8-1.

Looking forward to seeing students beginning on Monday September 17th!

RTC Welcomes New TV Production Instructor, Ms. Catrona Hill-Charity

We are grateful to have secured Catrona Hill as our new Television Production instructor. She brings over 20 years experience in the classroom, as well as in television production for Comcast and the Community Idea Stations. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Virginia State University, with a major in Administrative Systems Management and a minor in Mass Communications, specializing in television production.

Ms. Hill, originally from King & Queen County in Virginia's Middle Peninsula, is moving from Gloucester to Richmond for this position. She looks forward to the opportunity that being in Richmond will give her to reconnect with family and friends. Once she gets settled, Ms. Hill looks forward to returning to her favorite ways to relax - watching television and movies, and playing computer games. At one time Ms. Hill led a youth group in singing and praise dancing. Who knows? Maybe we'll be able to press her into service in those areas, too. We have a lot of talent among our body of RPS students, and most of them don't mind being on both sides of a camera.



RTC Students Travel to Virginia Tech During Summer for Virginia's 92nd FFA State Convention

On June 18th-21st, 2018, Mrs. Humphries took 11 students to Virginia Tech for Virginia's 92nd annual FFA State Convention. These students were members of the Animal Science Program at RTC and for some it was their second time attending the convention. Students were in attendance with hundreds of other FFA members from all over the state. While there, students attended various workshops which were hosted by State and National FFA Officers. Most notably, a team of four students competed against 23 other chapters in the Veterinary Science competition for the first time in the school's history. Students took advantage of their minimal free-time by exploring the campus; their favorite part was visiting the farms where they were able to interact with some of the animals. They also made new friends and reconnected with ones. Students noted their experience as memorable; many have already made plans to attend next year.



RTC Career Learning Experiences Summer Highlights

Two of our 2018 graduating seniors, Jalal Hamdard and Elias Pindea, both students in RTC's Precision and Machining Technology program, accepted part-time paid internship positions at Rolls Royce that started in February 2018. Rolls-Royce is known the world over for creating high-performance, integrated power solutions for use on land, at sea and in the air. As a result of their commitment to learning and demonstrating great workplace readiness skills, Jalal and Elias were offered full-time positions at Rolls-Royce as Registered Apprentices in their CNC Machining and Manufacturing Services (maintenance) program. That began right after their high school graduation in June. Rolls-Royce will pay for the apprentices' to complete their certificate program at John Tyler Community College and provide them with a structured on-the-job training program.



Youth apprenticeships are designed to train and lead students directly into an entry-level job for highly skilled technicians, a registered apprenticeship, or a postsecondary program. This past summer we had two of our Automotive Body and Technology students work as apprentices in Richmond Public Schools' Department of Transportation Fleet Maintenance. They work to help ensure that our school buses are safe and operational. They were embraced, trained and managed by a wonderful staff that believes in the importance of developing a competent workforce. As of August 31, 2018, both Keivonte Thomas and Lamar Blackwell were hired permanently and full-time. Each of them is moving forward with furthering their education training in Diesel Technology at the Reynolds Community College Goochland campus.



The Virginia State University (VSU) Agribusiness Entrepreneurship and Youth Workforce Development Training program was completed this summer by two of our students. These two students were Robin Sledge from our Landscaping program and Keyvante Washington. They participated in an academic online course with two experiential learning experiences scheduled during April 4-7 and July 9-20. These experiences included job shadowing in various agricultural settings and a two-week stay on campus. They were paid a stipend for their participation and the completion of the online course gives them three credit hours if they attend VSU.

New Culinary Arts Instructor, Chef Sean Monts

New RTC Culinary Arts Instructor, Chef Monts, took a few minutes out of his busy day to answer a few interview questions so we can get to know him a little better. Check out his exclusive answers for this hot-off-the-press RTC newsletter:

What is your educational background?

I attended the Newbury College School of Culinary Arts in Brookline, MA and received an AAS in Culinary Arts. I have also attended University of Virginia, Virginia Union University, and John Tyler Community College.

What is your professional background?

As far as restaurant and hotel management experience, I have worked in almost every aspect of the industry from dishwashing to executive chef. One of my most memorable experiences was working under Chef Mike in Hartford, CT at the JP Morgan Hotel. After training under him for three years, I became the morning Sous Chef, which is the second person in command! My teaching career began six years ago when I got a call from a friend who told me that a high school teaching position was open in Petersburg, VA. I came in to meet the director and have an informal chat, and was hired on the spot.

Why do you like teaching?

I LOVE TEACHING! It is in my blood; it is my life-force. My mother was a paraprofessional, what we currently call an instructional assistant. Sharing my knowledge and passion of culinary arts and kitchen management is rewarding and fulfilling. I believe that it is the responsibility of every professional to share what they have learned with the next generation. Outside of what I have mentioned already, as an African-American male in the USA, I feel that it is my responsibility to share my wisdom with the next generation and help them to not make the same mistakes that I made as a child while dealing with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). I learned to overcome them and so can they!

What is your teaching style?

Wow! What a great question! My teaching style is a little of this and a little of that. My primary style is to allow the students to teach each other. I am there in the classroom, in the kitchen, at the bistro table as a facilitator and coach. So, I guess coaching would be my style of teaching.

What do you hope to accomplish with your students this year?

I am sure it will be a challenging year, but my goal is to have a seven-course meal prepared in our kitchen and served in our restaurant by my students to those who will come and participate.

What projects do you have planned for the year with your students?

My plan includes a pie sale, a cake sale, and a hot-dog "cart" available for students and teachers during the breaks and after school.....and, of course, the aforementioned seven-course meal.

Which classes are you teaching?

The best thing about being a new teacher at RTC is that I am teaching ONLY first year culinary arts (Foundations of Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts). This gives me time to mold the students into the culinarians that I would like to see them become.

Where did you grow up and what are your hobbies?

I grew up in Hartford, CT in the North End, an area notorious for crime and poverty. I made it through and out of that area with the hand of a great mother and great role models. I currently live in Chester, VA. I am married to Coretta Monts, my wife and Queen for the past 16 years. Together we have two children, Aaron and Jeremiah, and I have two children, Alaina and Isaac, from my previous marriage. My hobbies include traveling, golf, reading and history.

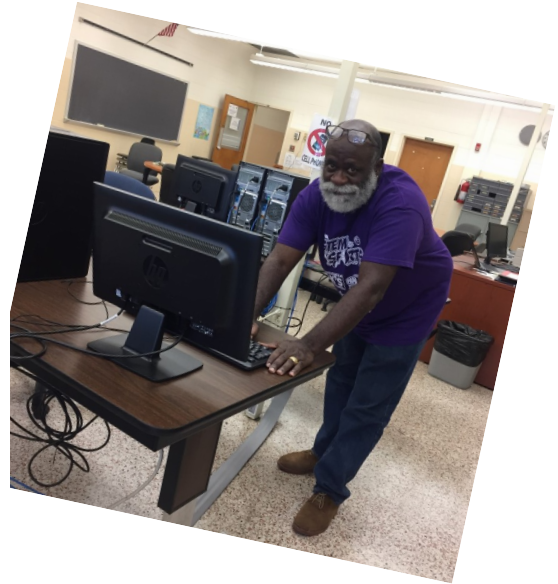
Please welcome Mr. Monts to the RTC Family!



RTC Welcomes New Engineering Instructor, Mr. Victor Cherry

Victor Cherry joined RTC to teach two of our STEM courses - Computer Science Principles and Engineering Design & Development. Mr. Cherry brings a broad range of work experience from the fields of technology education and business information, including government, academia, and private industry. With such a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, his contributions to our STEM program and the project-based learning experiences will provide our students with the fundamental concepts and critical thinking skills they will need to succeed in one of the many career paths open to STEM graduates.

Mr. Cherry came to the United States in 1984 from St. Lucia, a sovereign island country in the Caribbean Islands. He has spent many years volunteering and tutoring in his children's schools. His daughter now attends the University of Richmond and his son is a senior in high school. In his younger years, Mr. Cherry played soccer and cricket, but now prefers to walk and workout at the gym for exercise. Other pursuits include reading and following the stock markets. We welcome Mr. Cherry and feel fortunate to have his expertise!



RTC Welcomes Ms. Tesha Goodwine as Health and Medical Terminology Instructor

Bringing over twenty years of experience in the health field, Tesha Goodwine will be teaching RTC's Introduction to Health and Medical Terminology classes. She holds a degree in biology from the University of Virginia and is a Nationally Certified Pharmacy Technician. As a former RPS student herself, Ms. Goodwine was a participant in one of RPS's many programs that help students launch their careers. She participated in the Partnership for the Future program during her last three years in high school. In addition to weekly classes that helped her develop workplace readiness skills, she worked in a paid internship with Dr. Rodrick Love, a well-known Richmond obstetrician-gynecologist, specializing in perinatal services for high-risk pregnancies. Ms. Goodwine shadowed the doctor and performed various tasks in his practice which gave her a well-rounded introduction to a variety of careers. It also affirmed the career path she wanted to follow. Moreover, Ms. Goodwine took advantage of the program's college match by saving up to \$3,000 of her internship money for college expenses, which the program matched. Upon graduation from high school, she had a substantial nest egg of \$6,000. Ms. Goodwine is a great ambassador for the Partnership for the Future program and would be happy to answer inquiries from any of our students who might be interested in applying themselves. Between teaching full-time and raising a two-year old son, Ms. Goodwine likes to spend her leisure time relaxing and catching up on missed sleep.



RTC Welcomes Lauren-Anne Sledzinski, Instructional Specialist for Trade Industry, Marketing, and Technical Education

We are pleased to introduce Ms. Lauren Anne Sledzinski, Instructional Specialist for our Trade Industry, Marketing, and Technical Education programs. Ms. Sledzinski is originally from upstate New York in the Buffalo/ Niagara Falls area. She attended State University of New York (SUNY), Fredonia, where she received a B.A. in Psychology and Criminal Justice. She lived in Austin, Texas before moving to Richmond to become a substance abuse counselor. She also worked in law enforcement with the City of Richmond Sheriff's Office and the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Police Department.

Her teaching experience includes ten years of teaching criminal justice at the Advanced Career Education Center at Hermitage in Henrico County. She has her Master's degree in Administration and Education from the University of Phoenix.

Ms. Sledzinski started in her new position at RPS on September 25, 2017, and she comments, "It is good, controlled chaos. I have a lot of great teachers who are supportive and patient. I have been learning a lot."



Ms. Sledzinski mentioned that her new position includes different processes and she is "learning the intricacies of state and federal guidelines for Career and Technical Education, how money is allocated, and what it can be used for." She adds, "CTE is a different beast. The requirements are different."

Ms. Sledzinski mentioned that funding for classes comes from Federal Career Technical Education funding and the requirements for securing funding are different from other schools. One difference is ensuring equipment and safety requirements for specific classes, such as welding or auto mechanics. Ms. Sledzinski acknowledges that three-fourths of her teachers come from industry, not from an education background. This affects the paperwork side in terms of creating lesson plans and bridging the gap between teaching adults in the industry to teaching high school students interested in entering the industry.

She plans on working on new projects this year including the marketing of sports teams, virtual reality projects, and engineering of roller coasters.

Ms. Sledzinski supports over 40 teachers within RPS in both middle and high schools. "My middle school classes are technical education and my high school classes are trade and industry, technical education, and marketing. All of my classes, middle and high school, fall under CTE," says Sledzinski. Her support spans to ten different schools with 78 different programs.

When asked what her interests are, she responded, "I like learning about everything. I recently received my Emergency Management Training (EMT) certification, and Mr. James (Instructor at Richmond Technical Center) was my instructor. I do a lot with Skills USA, TSA, and DECA, Marketing Association. I have a unique job with my teachers; the curriculum is not easily transferable. A lot of the teachers I work with have a unique curriculum that only they teach, such as welding and fire science. I have found them to be hard-working, passionate about what they teach, and professional."

For leisure, Ms. Sledzinski enjoys spending time at her Rappahannock River house with her four rescue dogs. She is a Buffalo Bills, New York Yankees, and Buffalo Sabers hockey fan! Please help us welcome Ms. Sledzinski to RPS!

RTC Teacher of the Year 2018-2019 LaShawn Winston-Mayo

Hometown:

Richmond, Virginia

Education:

2000 Master's of Vocational Technical Education—Virginia State University

1995 Bachelor's of Science—Virginia State University

1991 Henrico County Public Schools

Work History:

2001—Present: Richmond Technical Center, Hospitality Management /Culinary Arts Teacher

Family and Consumer Science Teacher: Wilder Middle School (2 yrs)

Family and Consumers Science Teacher: Fluvanna County High School (1yr)

National & Community Service: AmeriCorps Member; United Way Services; Volunteer Center

Educational Influences:

God I give great honor, appreciation, and esteem for the God I serve

Mother Teaching me to have good work ethics, being strong, independent, and have self awareness

Grandparents Teaching me the fundamentals of Entrepreneurship and Creative Cooking

Dr. Cynthia R. Mayo Retired Professor at Delaware State University, PRP, Adjunct Professor, Mentor

RPS Family and Consumer Science Specialist Mrs. Deborah Kyles

RPS Retired Principal Mrs. N. Mauricee Holmes

High School Catering Teacher Mrs. Joan McCleary

Hobbies:

Decorating with Ambiance, Shopping, Cooking, Traveling, and I like operating large commercial equipment

Favorite Quote:

"If you can't figure out your purpose, figure out your passion. For your passion will lead you right into your purpose." T.D. Jakes

Favorite Colors: Black, Red, and Yellow

Favorite Team: Pittsburgh Steelers



**RTC Student of the Year 2018-2019
Fredrick Towler**



2018 Graduate of Huguenot High School and Richmond Technical Center—Business and Communication Cluster

CTE Program Instructors

Keisha Harris, Entrepreneurship Education

Karen Reitz, Graphic Imaging Technology

ACHIEVEMENTS:

2017 Adobe Illustrator Certified

2016 SkillsUSA Customer Service Certified

2016 SkillsUSA Virginia Statesman Award

2015-2018 National Technical Honor Society

W!se Certified for Financial Literacy

GPA: 3.45

CAREER GOALS: To own and operate a graphic design store

SCHOLARSHIPS: Student of the Year Scholarship from the Richmond Technical Center

GRASP Last Dollar Scholarship

Old Dominion University Crown Scholarship

POST-SECONDARY BOUND: Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA to major in graphic design

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Played football and wrestling all four years of high school and did track and field in 9th and 10th grades

WHAT THIS AWARD MEANS TO ME: "It's one of the biggest milestones in my evolving career."

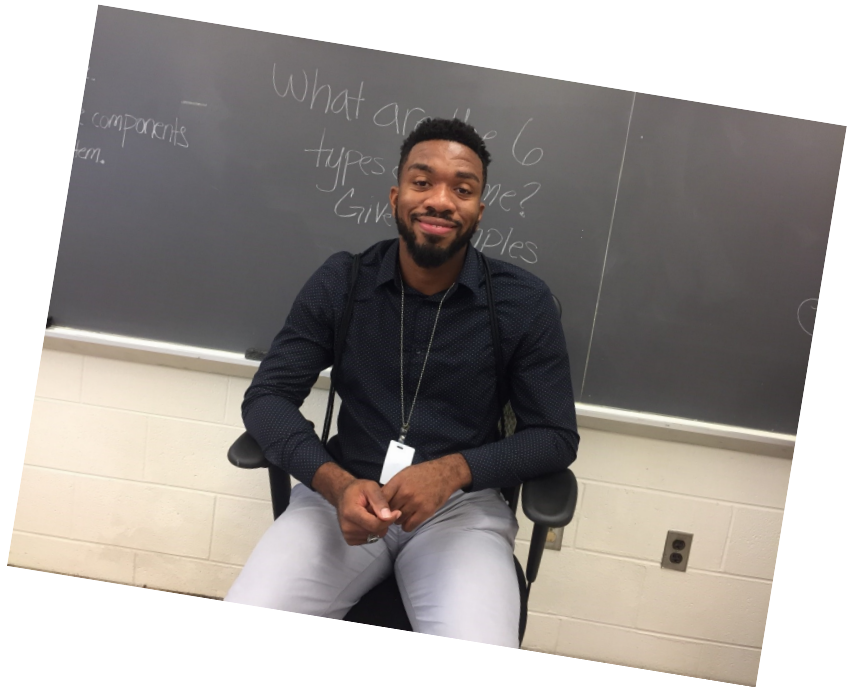
FAVORITE QUOTE: "I'd rather try something hard and fail then do nothing and succeed."

WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN LIFE: Patience



RTC Welcomes Mr. Dre'Mon Miller Criminal Justice and Public Safety Instructor

Criminal Justice I and II and Public Safety will be taught this year by a seasoned veteran, Dre'Mon Miller. Mr. Miller has a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Homeland Security from Virginia Commonwealth University. He also brings a variety of field experience from his years with the Department of Juvenile Justice for Virginia and also with the Division of Capital Police. He will be able to pepper his lectures with an abundance of firsthand stories from his nights in a police cruiser on the streets of downtown Richmond and the many discussions he monitored at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center on topics ranging from gangs to anger management to substance abuse. For the past two years, Mr. Miller has also moonlighted as an Algebra tutor at George Wythe--four hours, five days a week, after his regular beat as a police officer. Needless to say, Mr. Miller has plenty of energy and ambition! He keeps himself fit by playing tennis and working out. He also enjoys cooking, singing, traveling, and making time for his nieces and nephews. Looking forward to some fun, Mr. Miller is currently planning a trip to the Bahamas before the year is out.



SkillsUSA Framework

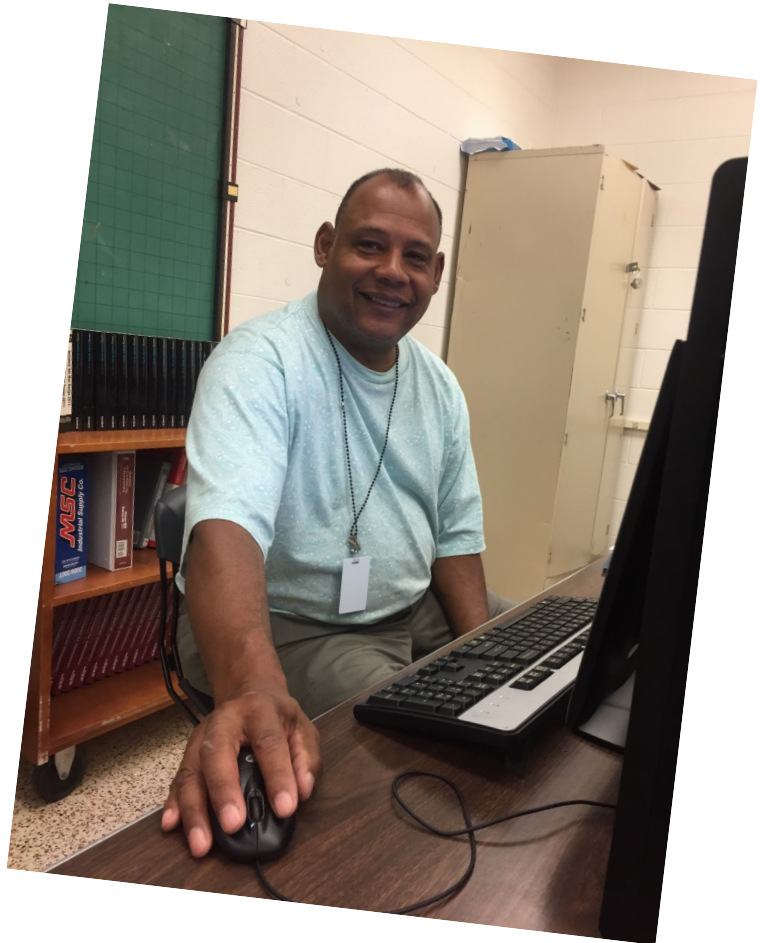


SkillsUSA has an impact on the lives of America's future workforce through the development of personal, workplace and technical skills that are grounded in academics.

RTC Welcomes Mr. LeRay Allen Technical Drawing and Digital Visualization Instructor

LeRay Allen originally hails from Saginaw, Michigan. He earned a B.S. in Industrial Education from Norfolk State University. After retiring as a STEM instructor for Baltimore County Schools, Mr. Allen moved to Richmond and will now be teaching two of our STEM courses, Technical Drawing and Digital Visualization. Students will learn how to use three simple tools--a T-square, 45-degree triangle, and a 30-60-90-degree triangle--to draw three dimensional drawings. Sound complicated? Mr. Allen starts with concrete tools before showing students how to do this with the same, but digital, tools. By the end of the course, students will be able to use digital drafting tools to simulate isometric, or 3-D, drawings. Once the basics of drafting are learned, it's on to the fun stuff--creating animated figures.

Mr. Allen has coached women's basketball teams for the past 25 years. He coached James Madison High School's team twice to state championships, and two different junior college teams to regional championships. Mr. Allen now wants to enjoy sports as a spectator. He plans to attend football games at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Convention and the Final Four games. We are fortunate to have a winner like Mr. Allen join our staff!





Richmond Technical Center

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(804) 780-6237 main
(804) 780-6061 fax

Barbara Smith, Director of Career and Technical Education
Jonathan Mitchum, Interim Principal

Richmond Public Schools School Board Members



Front row – Left to right: Elizabeth Doerr – 1st District, Dawn Page, Chair - 8th District, Dr. Patrick Sapini, Vice Chair - 5th District, Kenya Gibson - 3rd District. Back row – left to right: Felicia Cosby - 6th District, James “Scott” Barlow - 2nd District, Cheryl Burke - 7th District, Linda Owen - 9th District, Jonathan Young - 4th District and Linda Owen-District 9

Jason Kamras
Superintendent

Harry Hughes
Chief Schools Officer

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.