

# The Richmond Technical Times

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2020 Westwood Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230

## Thespian Training for PLC Students

by Kerry Smith, PLC English Teacher

High school English students in the PLC participated in a Shakespeare *Romeo and Juliet* workshop presented by The Quill Theatre. Actors from The Quill Theatre came to the PLC on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, to present a workshop on the literary techniques that Shakespeare uses in *Romeo and Juliet*, such as iambic pentameter, tone, characterization, metaphors, and conflict. The actors separated PLC students into two groups: males and females, and the males presented 10 lines of iambic pentameter in dramatic form in the voice of the Prince, at which point the females answered with 10 lines of iambic pentameter in the voice of Juliet. After completing the workshop, the students traveled to Henderson Middle School on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> to view a 1-hour production of *Romeo and Juliet* produced by the actors (on stage in costume and with props) who facilitated the one-hour workshop two days prior. The exercise deepened the students' understanding of *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare, Elizabethan drama, and key literary terms and devices used by The Bard, such as alliteration, oxymorons, personification, characterization, and iambic pentameter. The workshop and production were presented by The Quill Theatre at no cost to our PLC students. The students enjoyed the exercise and were engaged in the Shakespearean activities.



## Outside Speaker Engages Students in Ethical Dilemmas – by Mary Gresham, Entrepreneurship and Management Teacher

On Thursday, November 12th, Ms. Allan and Ms. Lawrence from Virginia 529 came to the Richmond Technical Center to present Junior Achievements, "*Empower through Ethics*" class to Mrs. Gresham, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Wells' classes.. Students were given case studies and had to collaborate to decide on what ethical decisions to make. Many students became presenters and learned about ethical decisions entrepreneurs face daily.



## Sunrise Café on the Move

by LaShawn Winston-May, Culinary Arts I Teacher

Richmond Technical Center's Sunrise Café, a student-operated enterprise, opened on December 3, 2015. Although they are based in a sunny café adjacent to the multipurpose room, students handle most of their point of sales by way of a mobile canteen. Teachers and staff look forward to the rolling cart laden with hearty breakfast items: golden-browned biscuits with choice of sausage or turkey patty, assorted pastries, and a variety of beverages. Those looking for a morning pick-me-up have made the freshly brewed, signature coffee the top selling item. Students get real life experience applying the principles of entrepreneurship and are gratified to make the connections for themselves between smart planning, hard work, and turning a profit. This is action learning at its best and most enjoyable!





## Information Night

by Judy Zimmerman, Library Media Specialist

In preparation of their coming of age, middle school students and their families came out on a cold October evening to gather information about RTC's many offerings. The theme for the event, *Embracing Change with Professionalism & Creativity*, reflected the mindset of the attendees who surveyed options for their children's future career paths. Teachers and RTC students gave short presentations on each career cluster and CTE courses. As usual, a show-stopper was the student-made, walking-talking robot. The welding students' Christmas tree made of recycled materials, lent romantic lighting in a corner of the multipurpose room that was otherwise decorated for Halloween. The evening was capped with free raffle drawings and a spaghetti dinner prepared and served by the RTC culinary department.

## Documentary in the Making

by Daysha Smith, John Marshall Senior, Television Production II Student

A large lab, usually with the door locked, sits on the first floor at the north end of the front hall. Most RTC students never see the impressive collection of equipment contained inside. RTC's Television Production class wants to demystify what goes on behind that closed door. They want everyone to know that students in that lab are preparing for lucrative careers as welders. To that end, the second year television students are producing a video aimed to promote RTC's welding

program, a course that many students might not otherwise consider simply because they don't know much about it.

Welding is the joining together of metal pieces or parts by heating the surfaces with a blowtorch to the point of melting. The TV production students decided to pay a visit to the welding lab so they could interview the 20 welding students about the trade and the training they are receiving for it at RTC. We are creating a documentary on why more students should join welding. We interviewed students and asked them questions about how they feel about the class, and asked whether they might get further training after they earn their high school diploma and welding certification. With a typical welding certification, people can earn about \$18 an hour, or receive an annual wage of \$37,920. Did you also know that military-support welders can start at \$160,000 to more than \$200,000 a year in the Middle East? Also, a highly skilled welder can earn the salary of a doctor or a lawyer.

More students should join welding because welding is one of the very few skills that can earn a worker a six figure income without having a college degree.







## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

by Howard Price, GRASP Advisor

As RTC's appointed GRASP advisor, Mr. Price is available every Wednesday from 8:00am – 1:00pm in the Media Center to help students apply for college financial assistance. There are also brochures and handouts available in the library to guide students in exploring different colleges; choosing among options for financial assistance; and applying for scholarships. Many people are surprised to learn that financial aid can be used not only for college, but to attend advanced trades programs.

Grasp (**G**reat **A**spirations **S**cholarship **P**rogram, Inc.) is a college-access organization that assists students and families in obtaining funding for post-secondary education. GRASP advisors work with students and their families—regardless of their financial resources and at no charge to them—to develop an education plan by:

- Assisting them with applying for college financial aid and scholarships
- Awarding and administering scholarships
- Inspiring them to believe that post-secondary education is attainable, and

- Supporting them during the completion of their post-secondary education.

GRASP's mission is to ensure that every student has an equal opportunity for continuing education after high school, regardless of financial or social circumstances.

Mr. Price will be visiting classes to introduce himself, answer questions, and set up appointments with interested students. There is also a sign-up sheet in the library to schedule individual appointments with students and parents who need assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

And while you're looking for money to pay for training beyond high school, don't forget that GRASP offers one scholarship per RPS high school.

## GRASP Last Dollar Scholarship

*You've done the hard work, now let us help you with a scholarship.*



### Eligibility Requirements

- Have met with the high school GRASP advisor during the senior year
- Have at least a 2.0 cumulative G.P.A.
- Will graduate from high school in spring of 2016
- Demonstrate unmet financial need
- Have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Will attend a post-secondary school in Virginia (public or private)

Last Dollar Scholarship recipients are selected based on applications. At least one student from each high school with a GRASP advisor is awarded a \$500 scholarship.

**Go to [www.grasp4va.org](http://www.grasp4va.org) to download your application today!**

**DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016**





(Jim, Principal wants the following included in the newsletter.)

## RPS Office of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

### 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.

ADA Coordinator

**John Boyer**-District 1  
**Kimberly Gray**-District 2  
**Jeffrey Bourne**, Chair,-District 3  
**Kristen Larson**- Vice Chair District 4  
**Mamie Taylor** – District 5

### School Board Members



**Shonda Harris-Muhammed**-District 6  
**Donald Coleman**, Vice-Chair-District 7  
**Derik Jones**-District 8  
**Tichi Pinkney-Eppes**-District 9

**Dr. Dana T. Bedden** – Superintendent