



**Issue 4 February 2019**

**RICHMOND TECHNICAL CENTER**

## E2O Program

Goodwill and RTC have joined together for a multi-week program focused on helping students acquire the skills and knowledge needed to transfer from high school to their next step in life—be it college, the military, an apprenticeship, or a job. The ultimate goal is to help them successfully segue into the workforce as contributing members of our community.

Goodwill Industries has dedicated two of its staff trainers to this program, Christian Crawford and Patra Brodie. They attend RTC two days a week to provide students with job readiness skills, job placement services, and soft-skills training--such as customer service and communication competencies. The students also

have the opportunity to participate in small group trainings, such as researching career choices, recognizing and capitalizing on transferable skills, developing personalized SMART goals, understanding the importance of workplace ethics and time management, and developing resumes and job portfolios. To date, over 125 students at RTC and PLC (Performance Learning Center) have completed their career exploration and developed personal career plans.

The E2O Program was designed by Goodwill's Melanie Walker and RTC's Charles Watson. Orientation sessions were rolled out on January 9, 2019 and the program will run through May 16<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally employers host job fairs, but the grand finale of the E2O Program will be a reverse job fair where students take the initiative to present themselves and their qualifications to potential employers.



## Letter from RTC Interim Principal, Mr. Jonathan Mitchum



Welcome back to the continuation of our excellent school year! It is hard to believe that we have already completed the first semester of school. I hope you and your family were able to enjoy quality time together during our winter break and that 2019 brings you good health and an enthusiasm for learning. Our return from winter break has been a smooth one, and all of our classrooms have been buzzing with new learning once again. As we begin the New Year and the start of the second semester, we are provided with an opportunity to reflect on the work we have been doing since September 2018.

During the second semester, Richmond Technical Center will be involved in several exciting events: the induction of students into the National Technical Honor Society; the District Competitions for SkillsUSA, HOSA, and TSA; and the NASA Hunch Video Challenge. We are confident that our students will be extremely successful in these competitions. This is also the time that our students complete their course requests for next year's classes, and we hold interviews for our Governor's STEM Academy.

As you read through the newsletter, you will see how each cluster has been engaging your child in his/her learning. While the newsletter provides you with an overview of the learning that has taken place in clusters over the past nine weeks, what we need to keep in mind is that there is still a great deal more for your child to learn. February and March are very important months for academic growth. Although these months seem long and sometimes dreary, they are the months we see real changes and progress in our students' achievements. Most of us who have been in the education profession awhile recognize that the winter months provide some of the best teaching and learning time of the school year.

I cannot close without acknowledging our national month of celebration, February, for Career and Technical Education. CTE Month provides programs across the country an opportunity to demonstrate how CTE makes students college and career ready and prepares them for high-wage, high-demand occupation fields.

We value the relationship we hold with you, and we welcome your presence in our building at any time.

"Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students, and enthusiastic parents with high expectations." (Bob Beauprez)

## Strengthening Skills for Career Success



United Way of Richmond and Petersburg joined efforts with the Richmond Technical Center to help our students become

college and career ready. Volunteers from both SunTrust and United Way came to RTC on November 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> to individually tutor 352 students in creating resumes and interviewing skills. A sincere thank you goes out to the 85 volunteers who donated their skills as well as over 215 hours of time. Part of United Way's mission this year is to strengthen skills for career success, and they certainly achieved this through their efforts at RTC! Students will use their resumes and interviewing skills practice during RTC's upcoming Mock Job Interview Event, scheduled from February 12-15, 2019.



## The Community Cares

The president, Ernest Thomas (second from right) and secretary, Ron Davis (far right) of Henrico County's three-wheeler Wolf Spyderys Motorcycle Club, delivered baskets of goodies to RTC's Performance Learning Center. The items were disseminated among PLC students and their families to enjoy over the Thanksgiving holiday. PLC's Academic Support for Exceptional Education & Testing, Minerva Jackson (far left), and PLC's Academic Coordinator, Dr. Zeno Hines (second from left), received the gifts from Ernest and Ron, along with the sentiments of Thanksgiving—caring for one another and sharing from our abundance.



## Annual Fall Trek to Virginia State University

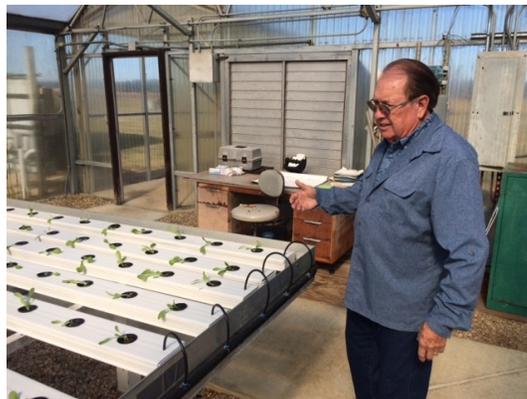


On October 23, 2018, with tubs and trash bags in tow, 50 students and teachers from the Small Animal Care, Veterinary Sciences, and Landscaping classes embarked on what has become an annual field trip to Virginia State University to learn about hydroponics, aquaponics, and greenhouse growing. After that, it was over to the



lambling and goat operations to learn about the intricacies of care and production of small farm animals. While the tilapia fish being raised in 500 gallon greenhouse water tanks were a hit, the goats and lambs garnered most of the students' attention.

Remember the tubs and large trash bags that came along on the ride? They were used to transport back to the RTC campus greenhouse a dozen or so Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), a North American native fish, currently being raised as a food crop at VSU. They are now well established in the 300 gallon tank in the RTC greenhouse where their waste fertilizes strawberry plants and lettuce being grown hydroponically, i.e., in water and without any soil.



After a tasty lunch at one of the college's eateries where our students dined alongside VSU students, we headed back to Richmond. It was a great learning adventure for both students and teachers alike.

## RTC Instructors Travel to West Coast

Craig Harris and Danny McQuillen, longtime RTC Auto Body I and II instructors, traveled to Long Beach, California for the annual one-day conference and tour sponsored by Universal Technical Institute. UTI hosts all-expense paid trips each year for automotive technology instructors to visit UTI's state of the art campus. While there, attendees learn about UTI's curriculum, latest automotive technology, as well as tour the labs used to train students on automobile care, mechanics, repair, paint, and high performance upgrades. Keeping instructors informed and well-versed on what UTI offers ensures that instructors will promote UTI to students seeking advanced training in the automotive industry. McQuillen and Harris have long been staunch promoters of UTI and other similar trade schools because they know the value students get from obtaining more education and training before entering the job market. Increased earnings and greater opportunities for advancement rise proportionately for those who are well trained and ready to perform in whatever field they choose. The auto industry is no exception.

The conference attendees were able to network and learn from one another as they attended workshops on a variety of topics. McQuillen and Harris were particularly engaged by the workshop on how to write precise auto estimates for collision repair. They also enjoyed speaker Jerry Ellner, a UTI instructor, who showed the correlations between STEM competencies and automotive curriculums used in CTE programs such as the one followed here at RTC. Ellner also discussed how STEM programs directly impact the collision industry. In the near future, Ellner would like to visit Richmond to speak to RPS guidance counselors on the many career opportunities found in the auto industry.



**Donald Wills Douglas Sculpture:** Harris and McQuillen took some time before and after the conference to tour local points of interest. Douglas Plaza features a sculpture of Donald Wills Douglas as the center piece of the park and gateway to Long Beach.

## National Technical Honor Society 2019

The Richmond Technical Center's (RTC) Chapter of The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) hosted its annual induction ceremony on Friday, February 1, 2019. This NTHS Chapter honors the achievements of top Career and Technical Education (CTE) students from the 30+ CTE programs at the RTC. Also, their induction into the NTHS will provide scholarship opportunities to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce. NTHS serves over 100,000 student members annually awarding over \$1.7 million in scholarships to date.

NTHS helps members to:

- Seek postsecondary education by awarding over \$260,000 in scholarship annually.
- Position themselves ahead of competition in today's highly competitive workforce.
- Earn recognition for superior achievement in career and technical fields.
- Build career portfolios with professional letters of recommendation.
- Connect to global career and technical education networks.
- Discover opportunities with leading business and industry.
- Serve in leadership roles in communities and industries.

This year RTC honored and inducted the following 34 high-achieving and deserving students into the National Technical Honor Society.

***Destiny Barksdale– GWHS***  
***Christian Benniefield-HHS***  
***Talik Bryant-GWHS***  
***Terqua Canada-GWHS***  
***Jaiyelle Cary-JMHS***  
***Mateo Cherry-RCHS***  
***Kyrie Cook-FMA***  
***Mama Diallo-JMHS***  
***Keneajah Dorsey-GWHS***  
***Alexus Drumgold-TJHS***  
***Wynter Fayson-RCHS***  
***Jomya Ford-TJHS***  
***Qwayanna Goode-AHS***  
***Alexis Gresham-TJHS***  
***Dorothy Haas– RCHS***  
***Mikayla Hales-GWHS***  
***Kayla Harris-HHS***  
***Eriyana Hargrove-AHS***  
***Keon Harvey-HHS***  
***Jennifer Hernandez-RCHS***  
***Xavier Hill-JMHS***  
***Jawana Kearney-HHS***  
***Serenity McMahan-GWHS***  
***Alfonzo Moore-FMA***  
***Ge'Nyveia Morman-JMHS***  
***Faith Morris-AMS***  
***Cierra Pleasant-HHS***  
***George Powell-HHS***  
***Rubi Rojas Vasquez-GWHS***  
***Jeremiah Ruffin-HHS***  
***Diamond Scott-TJHS***  
***D'Aun Washington-HHS***  
***Lyric Weston-RCHS***  
***Yariana Woody-JMHS***



AMS– Armstrong High School  
 FMA– Franklin Military Academy  
 GWHS—George Wythe High School  
 HHS– Huguenot High School  
 JMHS– John Marshall High School  
 RCHS– Richmond Community High School  
 TJHS– Thomas Jefferson High School

## National Technical Honor Society 2019, con't.



Additionally, recognizing advisory committee members and business and industry leaders is important to partnership development and fundamental to every NTHS induction ceremony. This year Honorary Membership awards were given to our Honorable School Board Member, Kenya Gibson, 3<sup>rd</sup> district, and Mr. James Austin Brown, Director of High School Principals, in recognition of their time and continuing efforts spent in advocacy and support of great education for all--regardless of zip codes.

Honorable Kenya Gibson



School Board Member, 3rd District

James Austin Brown



Director of High School Principals

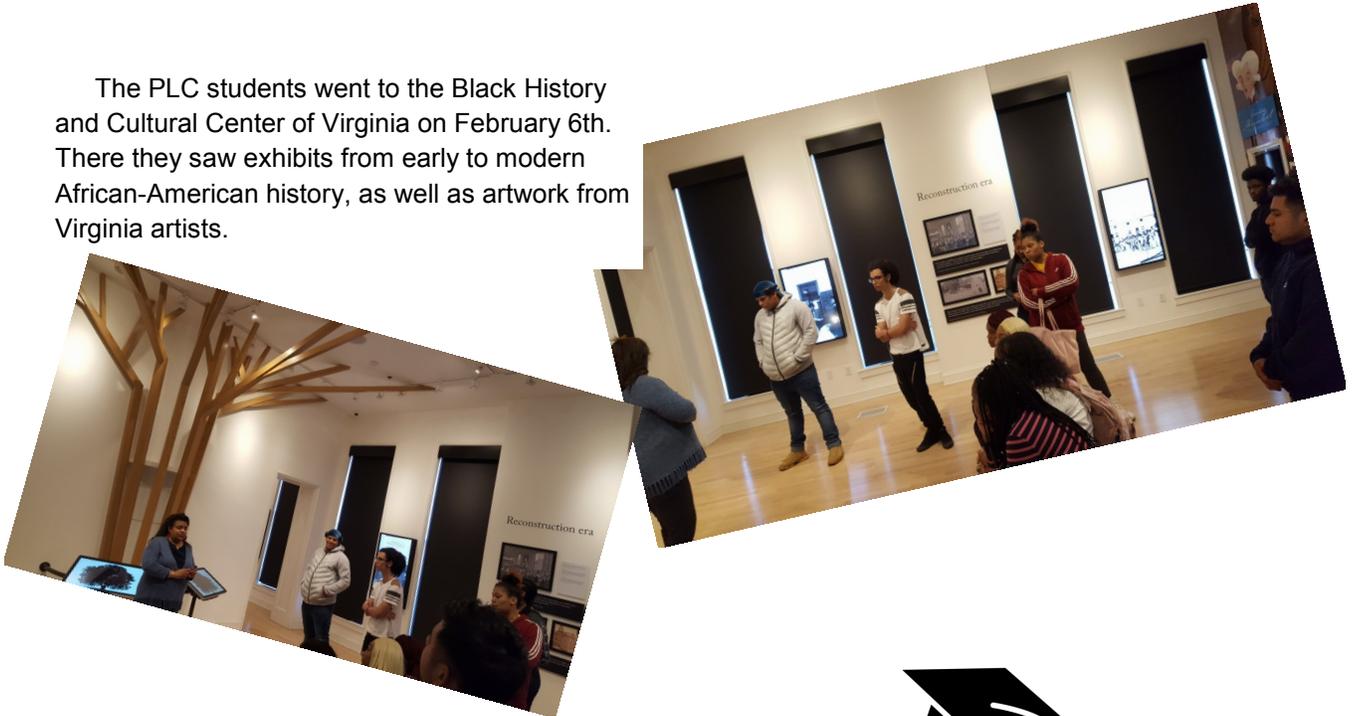
## FFA Community Service Project

On December 14, eight FFA members traveled with their FFA adviser, Mrs. Carter Humphries, to the Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton where the group carried out various agricultural activities with the after-school children. FFA member Nicglenia Booker read aloud *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens. Afterwards, the children applied their knowledge learned from the book to see if they could identify the names of vegetables from pictures, and determine whether they are a "top or bottom growing" edible plant. The FFA members also brought various potted vegetables grown in the RTC horticulture gardens for the NRC children to plant in their learning garden. FFA members created "garden in a glove" with each child. The Center's director said the students would be given the choice to either plant the seeds in NRC's learning garden or in their home gardens. FFA members also worked with the children to help them make, bake, and decorate holiday ornaments to put the children in the holiday spirit! After leaving, the FFA members debriefed the event and their interactions with the children. Everyone enjoyed the project so much that they immediately began working on plans for the next event, this coming spring, at NRC.



## PLC Students Visit the Black History Museum and Cultural Center in Richmond, VA

The PLC students went to the Black History and Cultural Center of Virginia on February 6th. There they saw exhibits from early to modern African-American history, as well as artwork from Virginia artists.



### Last Dollar Scholarship



Howard Price, RTC's GRASP Advisor, is available every Monday and Tuesday from 8:00am – 1:00pm in the Library Media Center to help students apply for college financial assistance. By submitting a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), students can seek grants, loans, and work study to help pay for college. Many people are surprised to learn that financial aid can be used not only for college, but to attend advanced trades programs as well. GRASP (Great Aspirations Scholarship Program, Inc.) is a college-access organization with advisors who 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 post-high school 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

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, and that includes RTC, the Last Dollar Scholarship. Applications for this will open in the spring and are due by Friday, April 12, 2019. Use this link <https://grasp4va.org/> to access the GRASP website and this link <http://tinyurl.com/y2ri69mc> for the Last Dollar Scholarship form.



## Richmond Technical Center

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**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.