



Issue 1 September 2017

RICHMOND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Auto Body Classes Take Field Trip to Richmond Jet Center

On May 7, 2017, the Auto Body I and II classes went to Richmond Jet Center to tour the facility. The students took interest in experimental aircraft built by the owner, Mr. Robert Clark. Pictures include Mr. Clark's 1958 restored red Corvette and a drawing by Tracey Romero painted on a hood which is now displayed in the Auto Body shop. Richmond Jet Center is a central hub for private airplane owners, including celebrities. The Richmond Jet Center services jets and other types of aircraft, both single-engine and twin engine aircraft. They also provide services such as mechanical and paint and body work. The students were provided an opportunity to see how their interests in auto body technology can develop into lucrative, lifelong careers.



Tracey Romero displays her artistic talent with a drawing of Mr. McQuillen on the hood of a car.



Letter from New RTC Principal, Dr. Robert Parsons

Dear RTC Staff, Students, Parents, and Friends:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I greet you as the Principal of Richmond Technical Center (RTC). RTC has enjoyed tremendous success as a beacon of academic excellence for our school division as well as for the Commonwealth of Virginia. This success did not happen by chance. Rather, it has been achieved through the hard work, dedication, and partnerships that exist among school staff, parents, community members, and the most important stakeholders in the equation, the student body. This formula for success is what impressed me from the very beginning, from when I first walked through the doors of our facility. I am humbled and most appreciative of the opportunity presented to me to become a member of this educational family.

As the instructional leader of our fine career and technical education high school, I enthusiastically embrace the task of continuing to use the fiscal, human, and material resources at my disposal to ensure that students graduate with the necessary tools to be productive citizens, as they write the next chapter of their lives at the postsecondary level or in the workforce. I recognize that differentiated, rigorous, and relevant instruction that meets the needs of each student will be the vehicle for continuing the success that has been experienced. The learning environment must be as safe and secure as possible for all students, staff, and support personnel. A team approach most definitely is necessary to create and maintain that desired learning environment.

I look forward to the exchange of ideas in the coming weeks and months as we all work in harmony, much like a symphony, to create educational masterpieces for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert W. Parsons
Principal



Animal Science, Construction, and Horticulture Clusters Take Field Trip to Virginia Tech

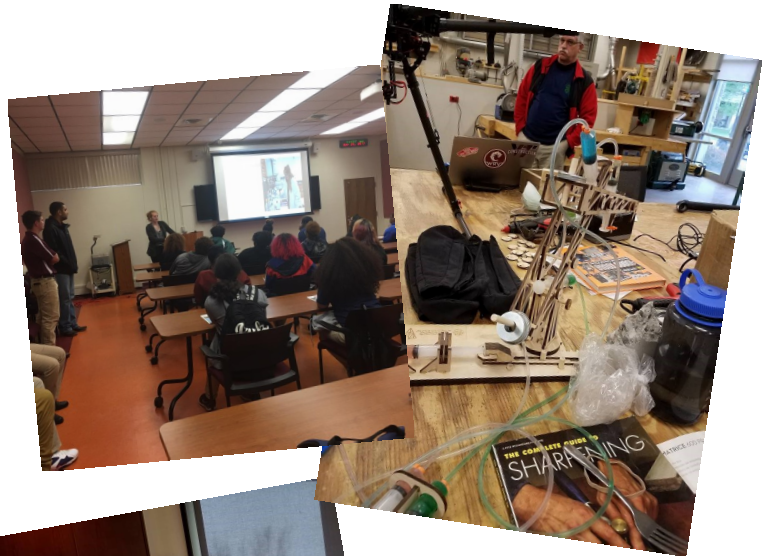
On April 24, 2017, RTC's Construction and Agriculture Clusters, comprised of 50 students and 8 adults, traveled to Virginia Tech for a cluster field trip. There were three different groups within the cluster: Construction, Animal Science, and Horticulture. Each group toured the section of the campus respective to what the students are learning in their studies at RTC. After each group went their separate ways for the morning session, everyone joined together for the all-you-can-eat buffet in Dietrich Dining Hall. The conversation was lively as students shared their morning experiences with one another. After lunch, Natasha Saunders, Virginia Tech's Director of Student Recruitment, spoke to the group about Virginia Tech's many programs and opportunities, as well as the benefits of living on campus. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a short walk to an auditorium for one final presentation where they learned about what to look for in a college and how to apply. This college visit, to gather first impressions and information, was the first for many of the students who will be college-shopping within the next few years.

Animal Science (Teachers: Carter Humphries and Batredda Raditsas)

The Animal Science group started off their tour in Litton Reeves, the school's main agriculture building, where students heard testimonies from four student ambassadors who are majoring in animal science. The ambassadors shared their perspectives on the Virginia Tech college experience and entertained questions. Next, professors who teach animal science classes and conduct research on companion animals, spoke about the animal science curriculum at Virginia Tech. Afterwards, students walked over to the meats lab where meat is produced for human consumption. The meat lab manager showed students the processing areas as well as how the processing takes place. The ambassadors then took the students to the barn areas where the students saw cattle, horses, and sheep. The students were able to hold the baby lambs while learning about the lambing process and caring for the newborns. Currently, two of the presidential turkeys pardoned by former President Obama are housed at Virginia Tech. Students enjoyed taking their pictures with the turkeys and petting them.

Construction (Teachers: Mary Gresham, Julian Green, Kevin Heath, and Carl Coles)

Students and teachers alike in the Construction group agree that the trip to the School of Construction at Virginia Tech was an enlightening adventure, a trip they will never forget. Traveling to Blacksburg was a first for many of the students. They marveled at the passing landscapes as they relaxed in the comfort of the motor coach. Upon arrival, the students registered amazement at the size and grandeur of the Virginia Tech campus, and were impressed by the multitude of students scurrying among the buildings.



Animal Science and Construction Clusters Take Field Trip to Virginia Tech (con't.)

A student ambassador met the group at the School of Construction and launched the tour with a presentation about the complex process of construction, beginning with the creation of blueprints and culminating in the completion of a physical structure. In addition to production schedules and the skilled crafts inherent in building a structure, RTC students gained knowledge about the collaboration needed among a variety of professionals and departments. Such integrated efforts require that construction workers possess good communication skills and the ability to work as team members. Virginia Tech has included skill development in these areas by including specific courses for these skills in the Construction curriculum. RTC students were in awe of the complexity of this field and the thoroughness with which Virginia Tech prepares its students. Construction is one of the occupational areas targeted for future job growth.

Horticulture (Teacher: Scott Burrell)

Students report they had a fantastic field trip despite the misty, rainy day. They found everyone at Virginia Tech welcoming and hospitable, intent on making RTC's visit a productive one in terms of gaining new information and experiences. Former Tech student and now an advisor for the undergraduate admissions office at Virginia Tech, Marie Schirmacher, accompanied the group, beginning the tour with a brief explanation about Virginia Tech and its Agriculture/Horticulture program. She then introduced the group to two Assistant Deans, one in turf and one in horticulture, along with a graduate student who is currently doing soil research and who spoke to the group about her research and the use of biochar as a permanent soil amendment. RTC students already had background knowledge on biochar as they had had a biochar-making demonstration earlier this school year. Each Assistant Dean queried the students about their aspirations and interests, and connected how students could attain their professional goals through the programs offered at Virginia Tech. After spending 45 minutes in the classroom, it was off to walk across campus to the Hahn Horticulture Display Garden where the garden director led the group on a guided walk and spoke about the plants and Virginia Tech programs. After the interesting walking tour, the group reached its final destination: an incredible greenhouse filled with an amazing diversity of tropical plants, including the famous *Amorphophallus titatanum* (the Titan Arum) which produces the largest known flower only once every 4-7 years; unfortunately the flower was not currently in bloom. The trip back to Richmond presented the perfect opportunity to debrief the day's events as the motor coach glided once again past the pastoral scenes of Virginia.



Mrs. Sylvia Mullen Receives VAFCS Distinguished Service Award



Mrs. Sylvia Mullen, RTC Culinary Arts Instructor, was recently appointed as the current president of the Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (VAFCS). Mrs. Mullen has 29 years of teaching experience with Richmond Public Schools. She was recently presented with the 2017 Advisor Mentor Award from the Virginia Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Organization and the 2017 Golden Apple Lifetime Achievement Award from the Iota Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Both awards were given in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to education. Way to go, Mrs. Mullen! Thank you for all that you do for RTC and its students!



Members of the VAFCS Board of Directors, 2017-2018, with Mrs. Mullen as President

Working Together in Small Animal Care Class to Meet Challenges with Positivity

Students in the Small Animal Care class put their heads together to figure out how to simultaneously balance twelve 10-penny nails on the head of a 10-penny nail sticking out of a block of wood. The challenge was not to have the nails touch anything else but each other and the head of the nail protruding from the wood. As they clearly demonstrated, no challenge (or icebreaker) is too great for them to figure out! To the right is Kalonie DePlata and Brianna Mosso walking freely across the room without dropping a single nail. Now that's the way to work together!



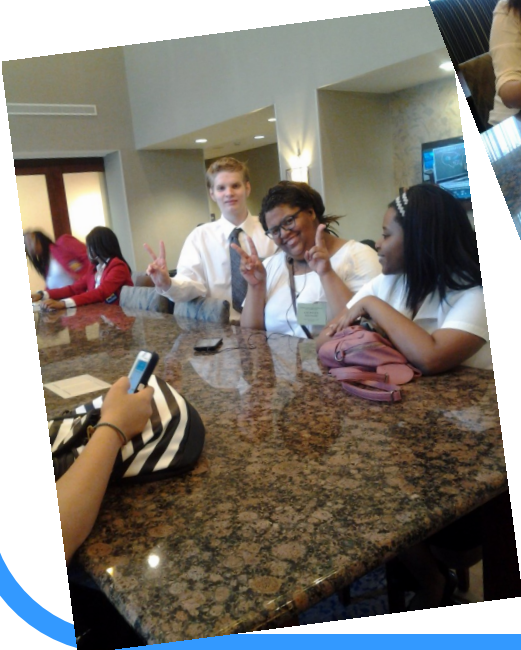
Kalonie DePlata tries her hand at walking across room without dropping a nail.



Brianna Mosso walks freely across room without dropping a single nail!

Skills USA State Championship in Fredericksburg, VA

Instructors Mary Gresham, Karen Reitz, Adrena Woodson, Ron Rinaldi, Donna Paige, Johnnell Taylor and Angela Moore accompanied 18 students to Fredericksburg, VA for the SkillsUSA State Competition. The students competed in various competitions such as spelling, advertising design, graphic imaging sublimation, building maintenance, cosmetology, employment application process, related technical math, promotional bulletin board, entrepreneurship, T-shirt design and many other competitions. Deshaun Baily served as one of the five delegates judging the entries. He also won third place for his poster. Fabian Viterio won 2nd place for graphic imaging sublimation for mugs, flip flops, and t-shirts. Other RTC students received awards ranging from first to third place. Participating students made the event a weekend trip, leaving on a Friday at the end of the school year, and returning on Sunday evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow students and teachers, as well as the experience of participating in a state competition.




**Dominion
Energy®**

Dominion Energy Hires RTC CTE Students for the Summer

As part of Dominion Energy's commitment to the safety of their employees, contractors, customers, and visitors, Dominion Energy hosted approximately 12 high school students as safety assistants during the summer of 2017. This initiative was sponsored by their Information Technology group. Dominion Energy was seeking to provide students with meaningful work experiences and exposure to IT professionals. This experience was also to impress upon them the depth of their focus on safety at the Company. Students selected had to have great customer service and communication skills. They also must be able to work independently and in a team environment, as required.



Jalal Hamdard

Two of Richmond Technical Center's students were selected for this great opportunity. Jalal Hamdard (left) is completing our Precision Machining Technology program (Walter Kelley, Instructor) and G'Avonte Hayes (right) is a completer of both our Building Management (Mary Gresham, Instructor) and Entrepreneurship programs (April Kelley-Hill, Instructor).



G'Avonte Hayes

These student workers performed a safety assessment at every workstation at various locations and documented situations that needed to be addressed based on a Company approved Safety Checklist. In addition to documenting areas that need attention, they had to remedy any computer cable configurations that could present tripping hazards. This summer employment was originally scheduled for approximately six weeks. However, these students conducted themselves in such an outstanding manner, when all of the other interns were released from the summer internship, the managers asked if the two of them could continue working for two additional weeks. They helped deploy and image machines, setup desktops and tagged another 2500 computers. What a great career experience! We wish to give many thanks to their Career and Technical Education instructors and to Mr. Charles Watson, RTC Careers Outreach Facilitator, for preparing these students and coordinating this event.

Here is a direct quote from the managers in reference to these two students' work ethics:

"These were the two best of the 12 students we had this summer. Their work ethic, approach and overall character were what we needed. In fact, we extended them right up until school started back to help with another project."

"I debated with some of the LFS – Lan Field Services folks about why they outworked the others. Some considered the fact that they were rising seniors and their age. Others commented it was their approach to things and their willingness to do whatever was needed. I would say it was a combination of all those things."

"After high school graduation, Jalal and G'Avonte, should look at our internship opportunities at careers.dominionenergy.com."

RTC Pilot Youth Apprenticeship Program



Richmond Technical Center (RTC) was selected as one of five Technical Centers in the state of Virginia for the Pilot Youth Apprenticeship Program by the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)/Division of Registered Apprenticeship Office for the summer of 2017. RTC students from 16-18 years old were eligible for employment within their career pathways. The objective of Youth Registered Apprenticeship (YRA) is to expand the state's skilled workforce by providing young people with career opportunities while completing their high school education. Part-time student apprenticeship is available to students where programs have been established in accordance with agreements with local public school divisions. One of DOLI's missions is to improve opportunities for business and employees in the Commonwealth and to contribute to economic development and quality of life for all Virginians. Through a coordinated effort involving business and industry, YRA addresses the dual role of preparing students for the world of work and providing Virginia with a highly skilled workforce. After eighteen (18) interviews by employers and meetings with parents, this pilot program allowed fourteen students (see names below) to start their employment in July 2017. RTC, students and parents are so thankful to those employers who provided this opportunity to our youth.



RPS Facility Services—Mechanical Department

- 1) Ja'Jon Cary – HVAC
- 2) Jaylen Coleman – HVAC
- 3) Christopher McArthur(right) – Welding



RPS Facility Services—Operations and Support Services

- 1) Scott Bagby (left)— Building Management
- 2) Tyrese Lewis – Building Management
- 3) Jakinah Oliver-Building Management
- 4) Chazz Berry - Entrepreneurship



RPS Department of Transportation

- 1) Keivonte Thomas – Auto Body Technology
- 2) Lamar Blackwell – Automotive Technology
- 3) Isaiah Fairley – Automotive Body Technology
- 4) Ryan Sanders (right) – Auto Body Technology



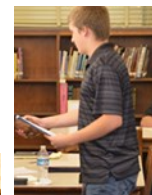
RPS Department of Information Technology

- 1) Cordelle Harris (left) – Computer Software Engineering



Merchant Auto Tire

- 1) Jordan Matthews (right) - Automotive Technology



Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

- 1) Destiny Pleasure (right) – Landscaping & Horticulture



RTC Students Travel to Virginia Tech for Virginia Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Convention



On June 26, 2017, Mrs. Carter Humphries and Mr. Scott Burrell traveled to Virginia Tech with five Small Animal Care students to the Virginia FFA (VFFA) State Convention for four days. These five students are all rising seniors continuing into the Veterinarian Science program, with interests in pursuing careers in the animal science field.

At the convention, students participated in various workshops ranging in topics from leadership, branding, teamwork, communication, and content specific topics. Students were engaged in activities and developed relationships with other FFA members. During the evening, students from all over the state gathered to listen to motivational speeches given by current state officers and guest speakers as well as to recognize student accomplishments in leadership and career development competitions. When students had free time, they took advantage of the opportunity to explore the campus. This included exploration of the agricultural land where horses, cattle, pigs, and sheep are housed for student learning opportunities. On Thursday, students returned to Richmond and shared their experiences with their teachers, staff members, and friends. All students enjoyed their time spent at Virginia Tech and experienced personal growth.



Digging into a Community Need



Three RTC instructors--Carter Humphries, Small Animal Care; Batreda Raditsas, Veterinary Sciences; and Scott Burrell, Landscaping & Horticulture--won a *Living To Serve* grant sponsored through FFA (Future Farmers of America). Their students will work together over the school year to help Richmond families gain greater access to nutrition information and fresh produce. Students will use the \$3,000 award to cultivate a garden on the RTC campus, where they will grow assorted fruits and vegetables to distribute through FeedMore food pantries. Students will make and distribute flyers that contain nutrition and gardening facts, and create how-to gardening videos to play at two food pantry fairs they will plan and host. The fair events will include demonstrations on how to store produce for longer shelf-life, vegetable preparation and taste samplings, and simple recipes that are low cost and good for the body. Students will not only distribute their harvest, but also provide starter materials for participants to plant gardens of their own. They will demonstrate how to grow produce in containers or small spaces, explain how to read food labels, and lead exercise sessions to get people moving. This grant-funded experience will give our students the opportunity to engage in a community service project that promotes agriculture education and better health for Richmond families.

Performance Learning Center @ RTC Welcomes New Class of 2018

The Performance Learning Center (PLC) at RTC is a joint partnership between Richmond Public Schools and Communities in Schools (CIS) and is a small, non-traditional high school geared toward students who are not succeeding in traditional high schools.

The PLC incorporates CIS's caring philosophy and approach that combines strong personal relationships between staff and students with an intense focus on academic achievement. A Services Coordinator, who is a CIS staff member, helps students with non-academic issues that may affect their ability to learn. The PLC serves high school students who are not succeeding in a traditional school setting and who typically lack interest in a traditional school environment and are seeking another learning option. Candidates for the PLC program are students who: experience poor academic achievement; are chronically late or

absent from school; are at high risk of dropping out of school.

The PLC has a 90% or higher success rate for graduating students and getting them on track in 2-year and 4-year colleges, technical careers, and/or military.

This year, the PLC has implemented a new online software program, **Edgenuity**, which is also used in Chesterfield and Henrico County schools, to allow students to complete course credits at an accelerated rate. **Edgenuity** offers standards-aligned, video-based curriculum for middle and high school blended learning environments. The program allows educators to customize the curriculum for their students, who monitor their own progress while completing lessons, assessments, and interactive activities.

The PLC staff includes Dr. Zeno Hines, Academic Coordinator; Mr. Remy Harris, CIS Coordinator; Ms. Minerva Jackson, Academic Support; Ms. Terri Pollard, Math Instructor; Mr. LaJuan Trusty, Science Instructor; Mr. Shaun Anderson, Social Studies Instructor; Ms. Kerry O'Brien Smith, English Instructor; and Ms. Veronica Waddey, Administrative Assistant. If you are interested in more information, please call 804.780.6187.



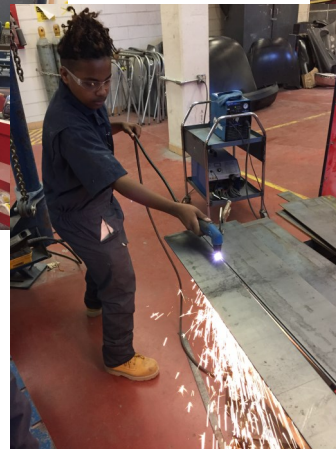
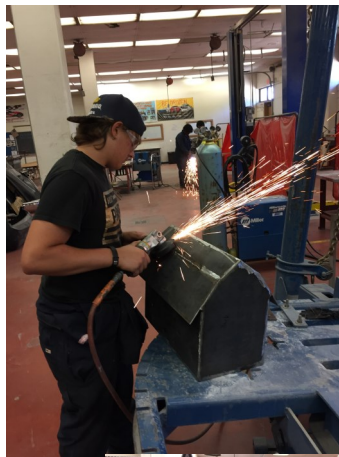
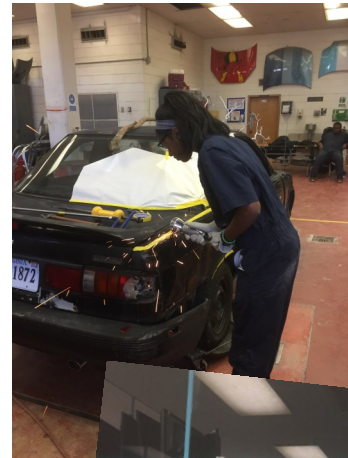
PLC Staff left to right: Mr. Lajuan Trusty, Science Instructor; Dr. Zeno Hines, Academic Coordinator; Mr. Shaun Anderson, Social Studies Instructor; Ms. Minerva Jackson, Academic Support; Ms. Kerry O'Brien Smith, English Instructor; and Ms. Terri Pollard, Math Instructor.



PLC Students Evan Dwyer, Kevin Hernandez, and Ja'Jon Cary.

Auto Body Students Put Their Artistic Talents to Work

Students enrolled in Auto Body Technology I and II will participate in a two year transportation program, where students can develop the art of taping, sanding, priming, mixing, and applying paint to become an automobile body technician. All students will have an opportunity to participate in an actual work environment and seek national Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification. Students may also actively participate in a student leadership organization, SkillsUSA. Uniform, resources and fees are required.



RTC Welcomes New Digital Visualization and Technical Drawing Instructor

RTC welcomes new digital visualization and technical drawing instructor, Ms. Monique Bailey. Ms. Bailey attended Virginia Union University where she earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Information Systems. Before joining RTC, she worked for the past 10 years at various jobs within her career field, such as a Help Desk Analyst, Programmer Analyst, and IT Support Technician.

"I've always wanted to teach, but was focused on making money instead of what I feel was my 'calling' in life, which is to uplift and teach our youth," says Ms. Bailey when asked why she likes to teach. Ms. Bailey adds, "I'm a very worldly individual so I have many interests, but my favorite is dance." Welcome, Ms. Bailey, to the RTC family!



RTC Welcomes New Firefighter and Public Safety Instructor



RTC welcomes Mr. James Scott Ellis as the new firefighter and public safety awareness officer. Mr. Ellis is a native Richmonder and was a military dependent for many years, living in New Mexico, Texas, and Arkansas, before moving back to Richmond. Mr. Ellis received his education from the State University of New York, Plattsburgh, then moved to Connecticut, where he was a firefighter, paramedic, and rescue driver for 22+ years. Mr. Ellis has been teaching firefighter programs since 1998. In his spare time, Mr. Ellis enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly on his boat. He has

three daughters and one step-son, and all are either working full-time or are in college. When asked why he likes to teach, Mr. Ellis replied, "I believe for me to be a successful teacher, I need to maintain a safe, controlled, enthusiastic and fun learning atmosphere for my students. While I want my students to enjoy what's left of their childhood, they need to understand that they a great responsibility as a firefighter." Welcome, Mr. Ellis!



RTC Welcomes New Architectural Engineering Instructor

If we were giving an award to the person who traveled the farthest to be with us at RTC, the prize would go to Mr. Vinayak Srivastava. Fourteen years ago he left his home in New Delhi, India to work in the U.S. in the rapidly expanding field of Information Technology. He has since become a U.S. citizen and acquired a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Georgia Technology University in Atlanta, Georgia. With his wife and two children (a daughter in 8th grade and a son in 6th) now happily settled in Richmond, they can usually be found most weekends taking in the mountains, the beach, the Chesapeake Bay, museums, or one of the many other points of interest that Virginia offers.

While pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering in India, Mr. Srivastava began tutoring small groups of students on the side, something that he continued to do over the next twenty-three years. He liked teaching so much that he kept the thought that one day he would like to try his hand at teaching full-time, hence, his interest in bringing his professional technical knowledge and experience to RTC students. We are fortunate to have someone with his background teaching our Architectural Engineering class and look forward to an exhibition of the projects his STEM students turn out this year.

Mr. V, as we are fondly calling him, enjoys playing ping pong, badminton, and tennis. He listens to a wide range of music, and is himself a singer. He has belonged to choruses in the past, but mostly preforms solos these days. Perhaps we can coax him into singing for us sometime this year!

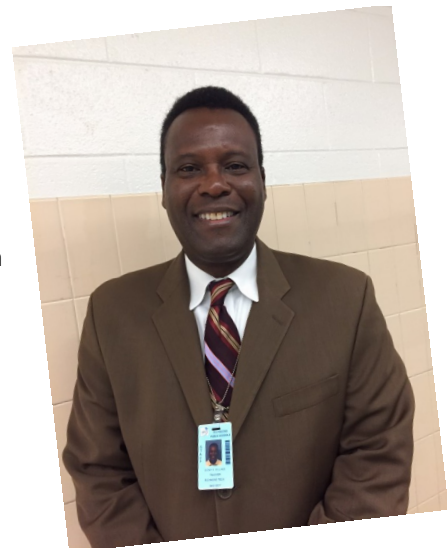


RTC Welcomes New Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Instructor

Does anyone play chess? You might want to test your mettle against our new Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement instructor, Mr. Sidney Williams. He is an avid player who hones his skills by playing online with experts from around the world. Moving among diverse people from different countries is nothing new to him. Before coming to RTC, he spent many years traveling the world for the military and U.S. Federal government. He has lived in foreign countries and traveled to many others scattered across the world's continents. He has applied his law degree and courtroom skills as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, across a range of cases from Civil Rights to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to Justice Department trials. He is used to "the heat," so to speak, which will serve him well as he shares his 30 years of experience with his students as they prepare themselves for a career to protect and serve others. We commend him for bringing all that he has to offer to RTC and look forward to his students stepping up to a role of authority and responsibility as law enforcement professionals.

Mr. Williams' wife and two sons (ages 10 and 12) are settled in Richmond, but the family home and furnishings are still sitting in Atlanta, GA waiting to be packed up and sold. Mr. Williams is looking forward to getting all that completed as quickly as possible so that he and his family can enjoy their leisure time discovering all that Richmond and Virginia offers.

In addition to an already full schedule, Mr. Williams keeps fit by playing basketball and reading widely among history, politics, intelligence, and true spy stories. Too bad we all can't be little mice in the corner of his classroom as Mr. Williams shares his many firsthand stories with his students in the coming year. He's not just about the textbook: he's been there, done that!



RTC Welcomes New Intro to Health and Medical Sciences and Medical Terminology Instructor

RTC welcomes Ms. Rachel Edwards as the new intro to health and medical sciences and medical terminology instructor. Ms. Edwards received her EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) -I education through Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and her EMT-B education through Stafford County Fire and Rescue. Ms. Edwards' experience includes five years of serving as an EMT and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) driver. When asked why Ms. Edwards likes to teach, she replies, "I enjoy empowering students in the health care field." Her hobbies include lacrosse and being a Girl Scout troop leader. Welcome, Ms. Edwards!



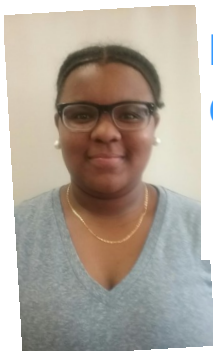
Owner of Revelations Media, LLC Visits Entrepreneurship Class @ RTC

RTC welcomed Mr. John Donelson, owner of Revelations Media, LLC, to speak to RTC's Entrepreneurship class in March of 2017. He specializes in multimedia productions, publishing, digital media, content creation, affiliated marketing, consulting, and customized merchandise. Students were able to ask questions about being in business for oneself and how to get started.



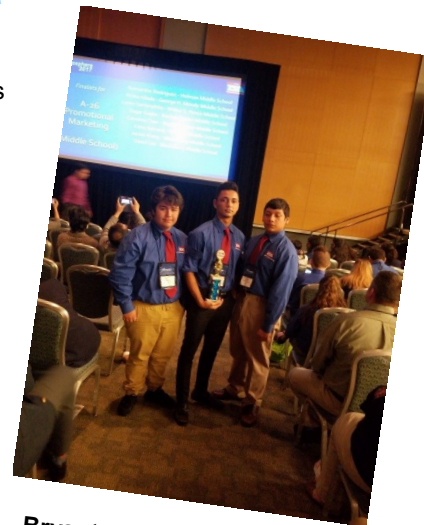
RTC Students Place in the Top Ten at the National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference

This summer, three students from the Richmond Technical Center's Technology Student Association (TSA) Chapter competed and placed in the top ten in 3D Animation at the National Technology Student Association Competition held in Orlando, FL. We would like to thank the RTC TSA Advisors: Bernard Williams, Roderick Davis, Linda Raynes, Charles Abdel-Alim, and Nuzelle Watson for their help preparing our students. Great job everyone!



Hats Off to Cadayejah Caffee

We would like to congratulate Cadayejah Caffee, an RTC student in Mrs. Woodson's barbering class, who took second place in barbering skills at both the state and district competitions.



Bryant Aquino, Christian Morales-Olivia, & Juan Sazo
(3D Animation – 8th PLACE)

Rogger James: 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year

Each year RTC staff honors one of their colleagues as *Teacher of the Year*. Nominees are recognized for going beyond normal job expectations. They are educators who consistently take the lead while still working as part of a team, and who are passionate about helping others, particularly their students and the positive impact they can have on their lives. This year we proudly recognize our Emergency Medical Technician instructor, Mr. Rogger James, for this honor. While he is humbled and appreciative of this award, he says that his real rewards are found in the daily interactions he has with students and coworkers. He enjoys what he does and plans to continue growing and diversifying his skills so that he can be of greater service to others.

Here is a more personal look at the Teacher of the Year:

Education

Associate Degree in Science – Richard Bland College

Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training and Pre-Physical Therapy - Virginia Commonwealth University

Master of Science Degree in Business Administration – Averett University

EMS Certificate in Paramedic and Firefighting

Mr. James's education may still be a work in progress as he is contemplating earning yet another degree, one that would enable him to practice as a medical doctor or physician's assistant.

Family

Mr. James grew up in Prince George County. A "sort of" middle child, he has an older brother, a younger sister, and an identical twin. He now lives in Richmond with his wife and 12 year old daughter, as well as a menagerie of pets: two rescue dogs, a guinea pig, goldfish, and two foot-long Oscars that are six years old. The family enjoys traveling and staying active in their church. Mr. James credits his older brother with leading him to his choice of career. When he was 15 years old, his brother would let him ride along with him as he worked as an EMT. That experience, coupled with the values his parents instilled in him, has led him to a life and career dedicated to serving others.

Interests and Hobbies

A competitive athlete, Mr. James plays soccer on two adult soccer leagues, which occupies two or three evenings a week. He is also an accomplished musician, playing the organ, piano, and keyboard for his church. He has assembled various bands over the years to play during Sunday services and for various social gatherings.

As an active member of RARC (Richmond Area Radio Controlled Club), Mr. James has built nine drones (three planes and six helicopters, each measuring a minimum of 6' x 6') that he flies at a Charles City club. It is his quest to start a remote-controlled airplane club for RTC students. He would like to expose students to the hobby, both on the field flying the drones, and inside RTC classrooms where the relevant skills are already being taught: technical drawing, designing, electronics, welding, small engine and aeronautical engineering. He would like to see students applying what they learn to the construction of their own robotic drones.

During a period when he worked as a fulltime firefighter, Mr. James honed his cooking skills at the firehouse. He is an accomplished cook now, with lasagna being his signature dish.



**RICHMOND TECHNICAL CENTER**

Richmond Technical Center
2020 Westwood Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230-4198

Phone: 804-780-6237
Fax: 804-780-6061

RTC is online!
Rvaschools.net/RTC

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.