

**Serving the Total Student**

## Richmond Technical Center

20230 Westwood Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23230

[rtc.rvaschools.net](http://rtc.rvaschools.net)

[Instagram.com/rtc\\_westartcareers](https://www.instagram.com/rtc_westartcareers)



SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE 2024  
RICHMOND TECHNICAL CENTER

## WE START CAREERS



RTC Technical Center



2020 Westwood Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23230  
804-780-6237

Jonathan Mitchum, Principal  
Chanel Lewis, Assistant Principal THRIVE Academy  
[rtc.rvaschools.net](http://rtc.rvaschools.net)  
[Instagram.com/rtcwestartcareers](https://www.instagram.com/rtcwestartcareers)





Students in Culinary Arts had a hands-on culinary experience at **Finer Palate**, an exclusive catering company known for its high-end meals.

**Chef Winston-Mayo** teaches students the art preparing chocolate strawberries.

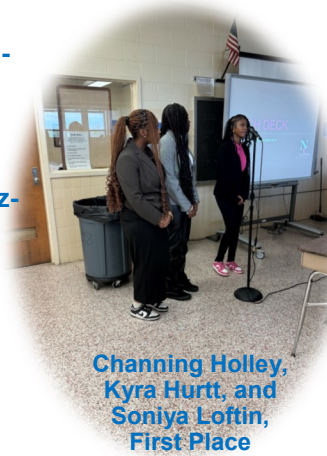


Students in Small Animal Care 2 visited the **Metro Richmond Zoo** and met Honey Dew, one of the many penguin at the facility that has more than 2000 animals. **Rebecca Miley, Teacher**



**Anthony Carter, Second Place**

**Mrs. C. Hill-Charity's** event featured RTC students winning prizes in the **Emerge**



**Channing Holley, Kyra Hurtt, and Soniya Loftin, First Place**



## School Board Members



**Elizabeth Doerr,**  
1st District, Vice  
Chair



**Mariah White,**  
2nd District



**Kenya Gibson,**  
3rd District



**Jonathan Young,**  
4th District



**Stephanie Rizzi,**  
5th District, Chair



**Shonda Harris- Muhammed ,**  
6th District



**Cheryl Burke,**  
7th District



**Dawn Page,**  
8th District



**Shavonda Davis,**  
9th District



**Superintendent Jason Kamras**

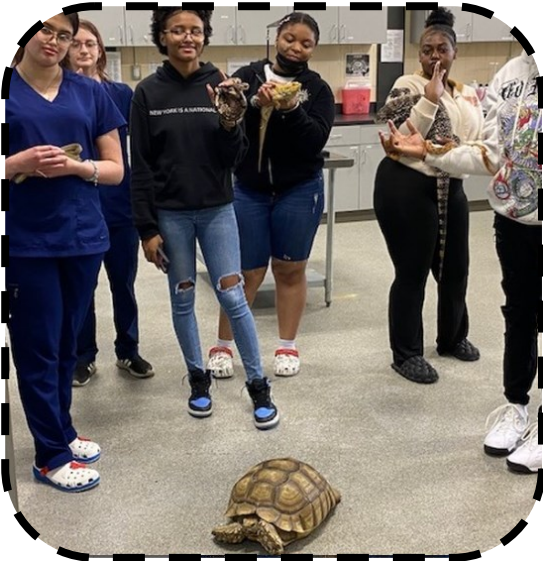


# The Future Is Now



Star Event Entrepreneurship 3rd place overall and Silver Metal winners are  
**Wayne Rachel II and NyShay Perkins received a scholarship** from  
Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts for \$2000  
Culinary Institute of Virginia \$4000  
Sullivan University \$3000  
Johnson and Wales University \$1000

**Wayne Rachel, II**  
Attending James Madison University  
Winner of the Emerge Yourself Day Prize



Students in Small Animal Care and Veterinary Science classes are preparing for summer jobs.



Perspective RTC students visiting from our local high schools to gain more knowledge for their future endeavors.

## Table of Contents

Teacher of the Year .....	2
Skills USA Winners .....	3
Support Staff of the Year.....	5
Thoughts from RTC Principal .....	6
Chat & Chew Spotlight.....	7
Culinary Arts Field Trip.....	8
Pharmacy Students Shine @ School Board Meeting.....	9
Office Personnel.....	10
Graphic Imaging Technology .....	11
HII: Newport News Shipbuilding.....	12
Ambulance Simulator .....	13
Students' Wise Quotes.....	14
Students' Visits.....	15
NASCAR Car.....	16
Virtual Welding .....	17
Youth Engagement Services.....	18
Spring into Healthy Eating Habits.....	19
Career Pathways to Medicine .....	20
Open House .....	21
Cyber Security @ RTC.....	22
Checkout RTC Students .....	23
RTC Tours: NASA, Norfolk State, and Solar Panel Program .....	24
A Peek at Culinary Arts.....	25
What We Do Matters.....	26
J.S. Reynold Community College.....	27
Career Fair.....	28
Students Recognition .....	29
Grooming Pets R Us.....	30
Head of the Class Award: RTC Carpentry Student.....	31
Cosmetology Class II.....	32
STEM Students Explore Coding and Cyber Security.....	33
Kudos to Partners.....	34
Unlimited Possibilities: Hiring Day.....	35
The Future Is Now.....	36



# Mrs. Adrena Woodson

## RTC Teacher of the Year 2024-25



Mrs. Adrena B. Woodson, a Master Barber teacher, has been named RTC Teacher of the Year for the 2024-2025 academic year. Mrs. Woodson earned her AAS Business Management Associate degree from J. Sergeant Reynolds and attended Virginia Union University and Flair Beauty Institute. She has been teaching at RTC since 2007, but she is also an entrepreneur who opened Peach Tree Hair Designs from 1999-2020. Before her teaching role, she worked at various organizations, including the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond Community Facilities, Richmond Police Department, Capital Police, Nabisco Brands Inspector, and USPS.

Mrs. Woodson's hobbies include antique collecting, bowling, and clothes designing. She believes in lifelong learning and stated, "In the many years of teaching students, it has been a challenging and rewarding experience."

# Unlimited Possibilities



**Mr. Charles Watson, Careers Facilitator coordinated with the assistance of Mrs. Jasmine Lomax, Strategic Enrollment Coordinator arranged an outstanding Program for seniors at RTC. Students had diverse opportunities to explore openings with more than 25 employers.**



# Kudos To Our Partners

*The partners of RTC have continuously made a positive impact on our efforts to assist learners in achieving success on their life journeys. Mr. Charles Watson, the Careers Facilitator in Technical Education, has created an extensive network of organizations, companies, corporations, for-profit and nonprofit entities, and individuals who generously contribute their time and resources to help us fulfill our mission and vision. We express our gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all of them.*

Acoustic Engineering	McKinnon Harris
Allan Myers	Richmond Electricians (JATC)
Areotek	Richmond SPCA
Beginnings Barbershop	RPS Nutrition Services
Bridging the Gap	Shirley Contracting
Brightpoint Community College	Sonoco Company
Carter Printing Company	State Farms
Colonial Webb	Tiny Textures Salon
Dept of Corrections Canine Unit	US Army
Dominion Energy	US Department of Labor/Office of Federal
Drone City	Contract Compliance Programs
Faith Printing	US Navy
Feed More	VCU Healthway
Ferber's Automotive and Body Shop	Virginia Masonary
Four Paws	Virginia Restaurant Lodging & Travel
Great Clips	Association
Great Clips	Weidmuller North American Corporation
Hair Cuttery	West Broad VW& KIA
Henrico Division of Fire	Westminster Canterbury
Hilton Garden - Downtown	WINN
Holiday Barnes	YMCA
L.S. Lee, Inc.	
LiUNA	
Mosquito Squad	
Pet Smart	
Richmond Ambulance Authority	

Thank  
You!

# Winners Skills USA District Competitions

**RTC Students were winners in the Skills USA District Competitions . Mr. Craig Harris prepared his students superbly. The awards ceremony was held at Goochland County High School . The RTC student winners are listed below:**

**Hiram Lopez-Morales, Yosmery Allende-Orenzo, and Alijah Adams**

Won first, second, and third place respectively in Auto Body Collision Repair category.



**Christopher Palma-Cruz, Ray Jiggetts, and Cesar Vitervo** won first, second, and third place respectively in Auto Body Damage Analysis category.



**Isaac McCurdy** won first place and **Javeon Sydor** won second place in Master Barbering category.

**Ian Bain**

Won third place in the Welding category.





# Winners Skills USA District Competitions

RTC Students were winners in the Skills USA District Competitions. The awards ceremony was held at Goochland County High School . The student winners in Mrs. A. Woodson's Master Barber class The two winners are listed below:



**Isaac McCurdy and Javeon Sydnor**

Isaac McCurdy on first place (on right) and Javeon Sydnor (on left) won second place in Master Barber.



## STEM Exploration

A group of students from RTC's STEM classes visited Bank of America's Headquarters Data Center. During the tour, they learned about different engineering, coding, and cybersecurity positions required in a major international bank. Bank of America is a multinational corporation that provides a wide range of services worldwide. The students were given a comprehensive look into the company's operations.





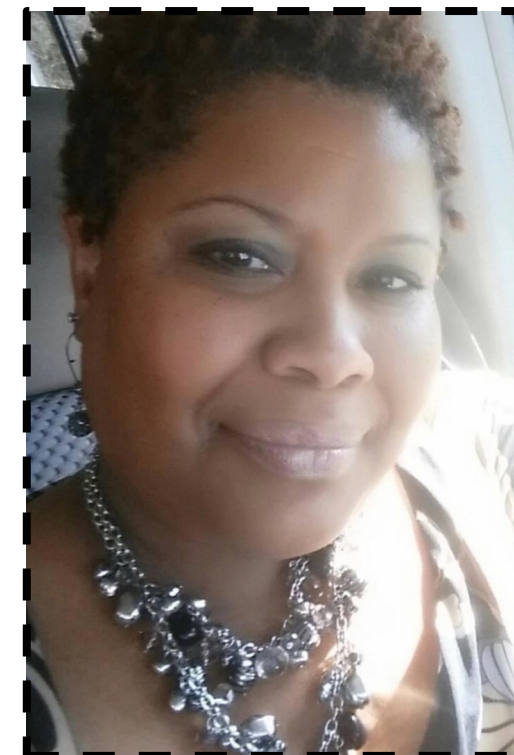
# Cosmetology Class

Ms. Taylor's Cosmetology II students learned how to apply chemical texture to hair in the lab. Take a look at the students in action.



# Mrs. Tracy Brown Awarded

RTC Support Staff of the Year  
2024



Mrs. Tracy Brown, Administrative Office Associate

Mrs. Brown is an outstanding team player who collaborates effectively with instructional personnel, parents, students, and administrators alike. She consistently goes above and beyond her job duties, and manages to juggle her non-stop tasks with a friendly smile on her face. She is always willing to work cooperatively with everyone in our school and is highly respected and appreciated by both students and parents. Mrs. Brown demonstrates exceptional people skills and is highly committed to serving everyone at any time. She is a true professional who is loved for her dedication and hard work.

Congratulations to Mrs. Tracy Brown!



## Thoughts from RTC Principal Mitchum

**Dear RTC Colleagues, Families, and Community:**

We appreciate your support and attendance at RTC. Our main objective is to offer our students an excellent learning experience as we continually strive to enhance our teaching techniques and infrastructure to ensure that they have access to the latest career skills and active learning opportunities.

While perusing our spring/summer magazine, take a moment to admire our hardworking students who are developing essential life and career skills to prepare for a bright future.

As the school year ends, we would like to thank the students, parents, and community for their cooperation and support throughout the year. At RTC, we constantly strive to improve our educational programs and help our students achieve their goals. We are committed to providing our students with the necessary support to kickstart their career, and we believe in their unique abilities and talents.

### YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS!

"I want to assure everyone that as the Principal of Richmond Technical School, I am always approachable and ready to listen to your questions, comments, and concerns. My open-door policy remains in place and I am committed to providing you with the necessary assistance. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any issues that you might have - I am here to help."

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Mitchum



Jonathan M. Mitchum, Principal

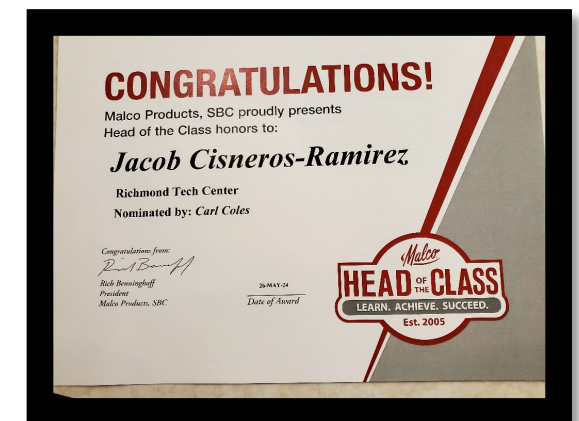
Principal Mitchum is retiring in June of 2024, after 30+ years of dedicated service to RPS.

**Thank you for your dedication.**



## Head Of The Class

Mr. Carl Coles, who is a Carpentry Instructor, nominated Jacob Cisneros-Ramirez for the prestigious Malco Products award. The company is pleased to recognize Jacob as the future of the building industry. In 2005, the "Head of The Class" initiative impacted the lives of many student-apprentices. Jacob was rewarded with a valuable labor-saving tool designed and patented by Malco, which will help him in his career. Along with accolades from his teachers and fellow students, Jacob will continue to achieve greater heights. The President of the company, Mr. Rich Benninghoff, encourages students to excel in their classes and rewards those who do well with a distinguished award. Jacob received his recognition on May 24, 2024.





# Grooming Pets R Us

## Grooming Pets R Us



The Small Animal Care students at RTC have launched their yearly fundraiser for grooming services. You can check out before and after pictures of Harpo to see the difference. Mrs. R. Miley, their instructor, sponsors grooming services every year for the community. This helps to improve the practical experiences of RTC students in her classes as well as those in Ms. L Rosa's Veterinary Science classes.

# Chat & Learn

Skilled professionals shared valuable information with RTC learners throughout the school year as part of our Chat and Learn initiative. Mr. Charles Watson, the Credential Testing and Career Facilitator, selected companies that are hiring and training, such as Acoustic Engineering, Aero-tek, Colonial Webb, Dominion Energy, LiUNA, McKinnon and Harris, Richmond Electricians JATC, Virginia Masonry, and Westminster Canterbury, to come and chat with our students about potential career pathways with them. Our students were excited and engaged during these Chat & Learn sessions.





# Culinary Arts Trip

Chefs Monts and Winston-Mayo introduced their culinary students to the course offerings at ECPI University, including classes in Culinary Arts and Baking & Pastry Specializations. The university provided hands-on opportunities for the students during their visit in March.



## Students Recognition





# Chat & Learn: CAREER FAIR

## RPS School Board & Pharmacy

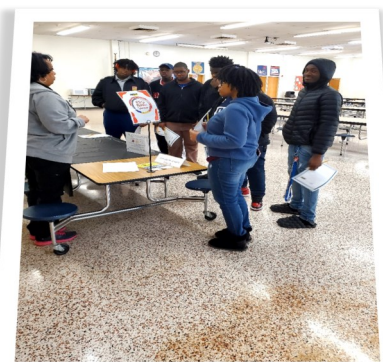
### RTC Pharmacy Students Shine!

At the school board meeting the pharmacy students

Makyla Cosby (on the left), Gabriela Perez (on the right), teacher Mrs. Tiffany Pierce, and principal Mr. Jonathan Mitchum showcased their homemade lip balm, soap, and scented wax cubes.



The Pinnacle of  
Starting  
Careers @ RTC.





# Office Personnel



Mrs. Sheila Singleton, Administrative Office Associate

Mrs. Lake's job at the office is both interesting and challenging. She is highly sought after and has a wide range of responsibilities that are constantly changing. Mrs. Lake is a consummate professional who always greets others with a smile. She has also worked in the classroom and is well respected by students, staff, and administrators alike. Her main duty is to maintain accurate records of student attendance.

"Administration  
Appreciation Day  
at  
RTC.  
Thank you,  
ladies!"



Ms. Sheila Singleton is highly appreciated by everyone at RTC for her dynamic and creative contributions. She has extensive experience in the field of education, both inside and outside the classroom. She is responsible for providing various types of support, including ordering resources for RTC. In most cases, she is the first point of contact for our students when they need assistance in the office. Her professionalism, tenacity, classroom management skills, and educational qualifications make all the tasks she accomplishes appear effortless. We express our gratitude to Ms. Singleton for her valuable contributions.



Mrs. Henriette Lake, Office Associate III

# J.S. Reynolds

The Reynolds Community College Working Session event was a great success, thanks to the combined efforts and collaboration of MYA/Y.E.S., Engagement Specialists, Richmond Tech Center Staff, and Reynolds High School Recruitment Advisor, Ms. Jessica Anderson.



A group of thirty-five students from RTC expressed their interest in exploring the opportunities available at Reynolds Community College.





# What We Do Matters



Mr. Coles presents hand-made carpentry gifts to students.



Mr. Green's Electricity class students read articles in RTC Magazine.



The students of Culinary Arts taught by Ms. Winston-Mayo are preparing some delicious chocolate-covered strawberries.



Ms. Rosa's Veterinary Science students work with animals at the Department of Agriculture at VSU.

## A GLIMPSE OF OUR STUDENTS

### Graphic Imaging Technology



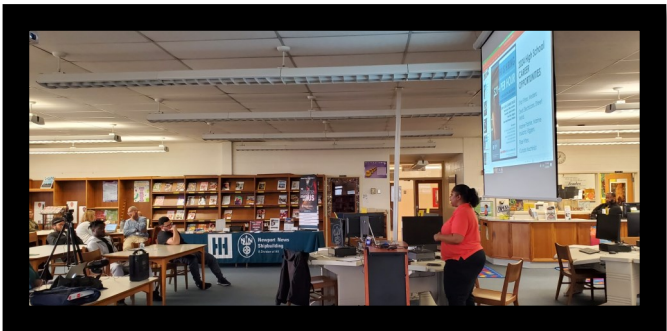
Mr. Taylor's Graphic Imaging Technology students sharing information about the RTC Graphic Imaging Technology class in a comic strip. Read the comic above and share your thoughts about the opportunities available at RTC.



# HII: Newport News Shipbuilding

## Recruit @ RTC

More than 40 RTC students attended the **Newport News Shipyard** information event, with additional RPS students watching the live broadcast. Mr. Charles Watson, Career Facilitator, organized the recruiting initiative.



# A Peek at Culinary Arts With

## Chef Monts' Learners



The students are taught the correct techniques for using a knife to cut.  
Below students are making delicious meals.





# Educational Tours

In April 2024, Ms. P. Jones took RTC students on an exciting campus tour of Norfolk State University sponsored by the Continental Society. The tour provided an excellent opportunity for students to explore the campus, learn more about the university's programs and facilities, and get a feel for college life. By experiencing the campus firsthand, students gained valuable insights into what it's like to be a college student and what they can expect from Norfolk State University. Overall, the tour was an excellent way for students to start thinking about their future academic plans and to get inspired about the possibilities that await them.



# Ambulance Simulator

In 2009, the Richmond Technical Center acquired an Ambulance Simulator for the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course, becoming the first high school program on the East Coast to receive this laboratory feature. The simulator was built by Rescue Simulation Products, who also hired two EMT students to assist with its installation. Since then, students have been able to practice hands-on EMS skills with practical scenarios, making their training more realistic and effective. Mrs. R. Edwards' EMT class provides opportunities for hands-on learning both on campus and on the campus of J. S. Reynolds Community College.

Note: Information provided by Ms. K. Randolph, Lead Teacher





# Students' Wise Words

Dr. V. Foster, the media specialist at RTC, encouraged students to read inspiring quotes from American leaders. These quotes were displayed in the media center. After reading them, students were urged to create their own original quotes to inspire their family, community, teachers, friends, and others at RTC. Additionally, students who participated were treated to a celebration party in the library where they enjoyed cupcakes, doughnuts, and other goodies. Take a glimpse at their quotes below:



## ACTION

- "FAILURE IS NOT THE WORST THING IN THE WORLD. THE WORST THING IS TO NOT TRY."-RYAN HILL
- "YOU HAVE TO CRANK LIFE BEFORE IT CRANKS YOU."-ASHANEY SMITH
- "I'M HOLDING UP LONGER THAN A BRIDGE."-RANDY CANNON
- "MY BLACK HAIR IS BEAUTIFUL."-DOMINIQUE SMITH
- "TELL YOUR STORY AND MAKE IT HISTORY."-JAKEIRA BROWN



## LIKE & FOLLOW

"NEVER FEAR WHAT YOU'VE NEVER ATTEMPTED."-MA GUADALUPE RUIZ CORTES

## WRITE YOUR WORDS!

## WOW!

### WISE STUDENTS' QUOTES

- "REMEMBER: IF YOU AVOID FAILURE, YOU ALSO AVOID SUCCESS."-AMA COUSINS
- DON'T GET TOO HUMBLE THAT YOU DISAPPEAR -MICHAEL DABNEY, JR.
- SOMETIMES THE HARDEST THING YOU CAN DO IS TRY."-ANAYA CUSTUS

If I am walking with two other men, each of them will serve as my teacher. I will pick out the good points of the one and imitate them, and the bad points of the other and correct them in myself. Confucius

# Checkout RTC Students

RTC students visited Virginia Aviation and Randy Cannon participated in an activity with NASA staff.



## Solar Panel Program and Training



RTC Solar Panel Team



RTC Students holding certificates.



# Cyber Security @ RTC

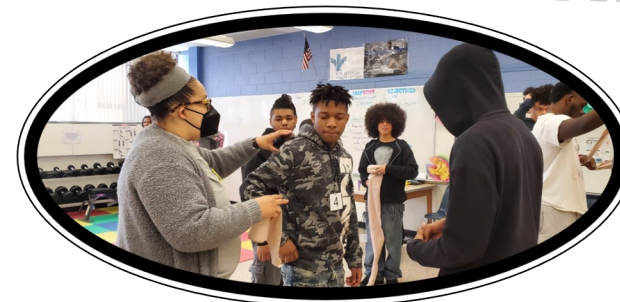
## RTC Students Visit VA FAME Advanced

Students in Ms. Mary Williams' Engineering Exploration class are gaining knowledge of color and art elements to create 3D prototypes using the engineering design process. They are being taught techniques such as using Tinker Cad to create replicas of miniature bikes.

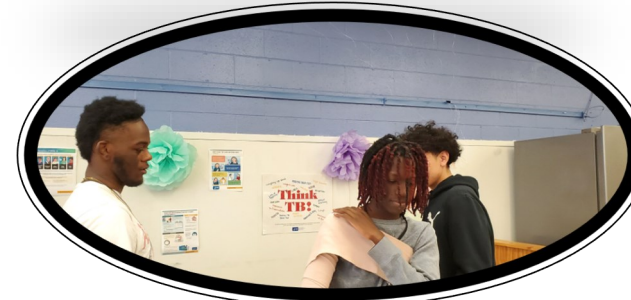
Additionally, students in the Engineering cluster had the opportunity to visit the Central VA FAME Advanced Manufacturing facility where they were introduced to blueprint automation, and electronic precision technology connectors, and gained valuable insights into the FAME multidisciplinary, multi-skilled educational program.



## Students Visit RTC



Sports Medicine (above and below)



Graphic Imaging and Barbering



A group of high school students from Richmond Public Schools recently visited RTC to participate in hands-on activities, engaged in discussions, met teachers, and learned about class offerings. The photos taken during the visit give a glimpse of the memorable day. The visit was planned by Mrs. J. Lomax, Mr. C. Watson, Ms. P. Jones, and Mrs. K. Taylor.



Construction



Culinary Arts



Student Ambassadors with coordinators.



# Nascar Car of Tomorrow

The NASCAR Car of Tomorrow is in Mr. Craig Harris' lab at RTC. His students are provided with lectures and demonstrations on the NASCAR chassis, focusing on the design purposes and the innovative examination of how it will be built. During Mr. Harris' classes, his students are encouraged to dream and use their imagination beyond today.



# Open House @ RTC

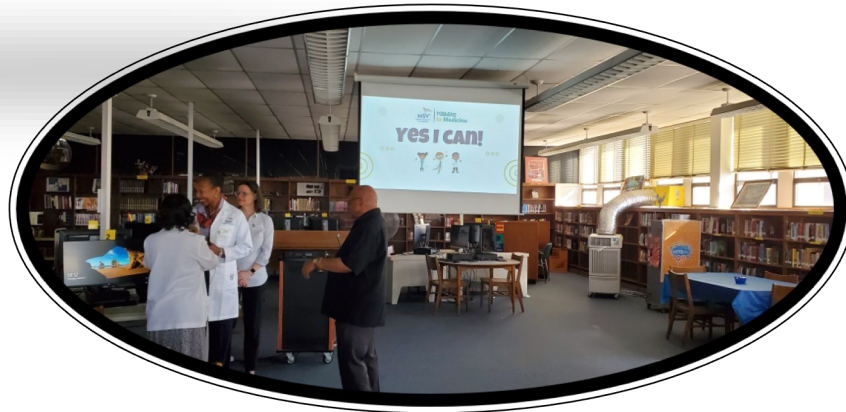
Mrs. Jasmine Lomax, the Strategic Enrollment Coordinator, is a skilled professional who has successfully accomplished various tasks. [You may wonder what is an enrollment coordinator?](#) This role involves tracking and analyzing enrollment and class data to identify trends, improve decision-making, and resolve enrollment issues. Additionally, Mrs. Lomax is responsible for managing, preparing, and assisting with post-season data gathering and analyses. As the RTC Enrollment Coordinator, she is committed to ensuring that all enrollment processes run smoothly. Furthermore, her expertise as a former career counselor serves as a valuable tool in aiding learners to make constructive career choices, while also assisting in the development of crucial academic, social, and life skills that will prepare them for the challenges of our global job market.





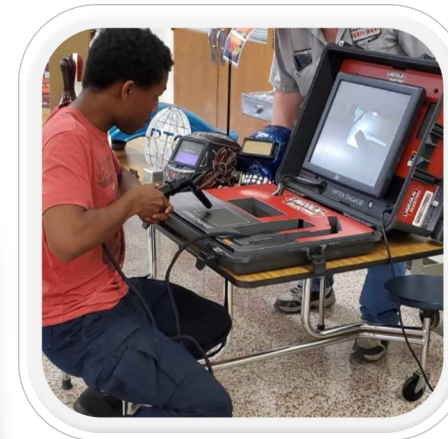
## Pathways to Medicine

In another Chat and Learn initiative, Mr. C. Watson, Careers Facilitator, shed light on career pathways to medicine for students. Professionals from Cumberland Hospital, including outstanding doctors, LPNs, RNs, and medical technicians, were also present to answer students' questions. The theme of the session was "YES I CAN," and our learners were actively engaged in the discussion about healthcare careers.



## Virtual Welding

Students in Mr. C. Harris' Automotive Technology classes use computer assistance to develop their eye-hand coordination, speed, feed, and travel techniques virtually. Students in the program are taught the fundamentals of Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW).



One Student in the Automotive Body Technology class uses the virtual welding simulator during the RTC Open House.



Mr. Ekstrom's welding class combines virtual reality training with hands-on experience in an actual welding booth.





# Youth Engagement Services



Rapheal Johnson and Angelica Heath,  
YES Specialists

Youth Engagement Services formerly known as the Mayor's Youth Academy is involved in serving youth in Richmond City. The wonderful staff housed at Richmond Technical Center are dedicated, knowledgeable, and energetic as they work closely with staff and students to provide diverse career paths while providing all students with an opportunity to grow and thrive.

## VISION

To develop the Richmond's future workforce with hopes of supporting access to quality employment and related supports that help decrease poverty in the city of Richmond.

## ADVANTAGES TO PARTICIPATING

- ◆ Personalized career exploration
- ◆ Expert Guidance from a Team of Well-Qualified Professionals
- ◆ Supportive Community
- ◆ Connections to mentors
- ◆ Access to Support Services
- ◆ Engages youth around the county to participate in local government
- ◆ Prepare future leaders through training, community engagement, and civic engagement
- ◆ Provide youth an opportunity to make recommendation to city leaders

# Spring Into Healthy Eating Habits

The Richmond Technical Center Baristas are highly skilled in preparing both nutritious and appetizing meals for students. Mrs. Rachel and Mr. Frank use a variety of herbs and spices to enhance the flavor of the dishes they prepare, and students have taken note of the healthy seasonings used by these talented chefs. We would like to invite everyone to join us in celebrating our dedicated food service personnel and embrace healthy eating habits this spring and summer!



Mrs. Rachel and Mr. Frank,  
Nutrition 4 U!



YUMMY!