

SUBURBS

Bartlett summer internships offer real-world experience

By [Michael Waddell](#), Special to the Daily Memphian

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Student interns including Hunter Boaz (right) and Noah Crocitto are working in Bartlett's A. Keith McDonald Fleet Maintenance Facility this summer. (Brad Vest/Special to The Daily Memphian)

The City of Bartlett is putting students to work this summer, with the goal of preparing them for careers after high school.

The new eight-week Summer Youth Internship Program is a first for the city and is the brainchild of Mayor David Parsons.

“Everywhere you look and with BlueOval coming, many of businesses out here can’t fill jobs,” he said. “I want to expose these high school kids to opportunities that the Bartlett community has to offer in the workforce future and create a pipeline for the next generation of our hometown graduates.”

Chamber grant will help develop Memphis area’s STEM workforce

The program, which includes four students for this first year, is designed to help develop constructive work habits, positive attitudes and valuable job skills necessary to enter the workforce, according to Debbie Gelineau, the suburb’s director of community relations.

Parsons also noted that he hopes the program will shorten the period between high school graduation and students securing employment.

Four students were selected to participate this year. During June and July, Elijah Nicholas and Hannah Wilson are working with Gelineau in the city’s communications department, while Hunter Boaz and Noah Crocitto are working at the A. Keith McDonald Fleet Maintenance Facility.

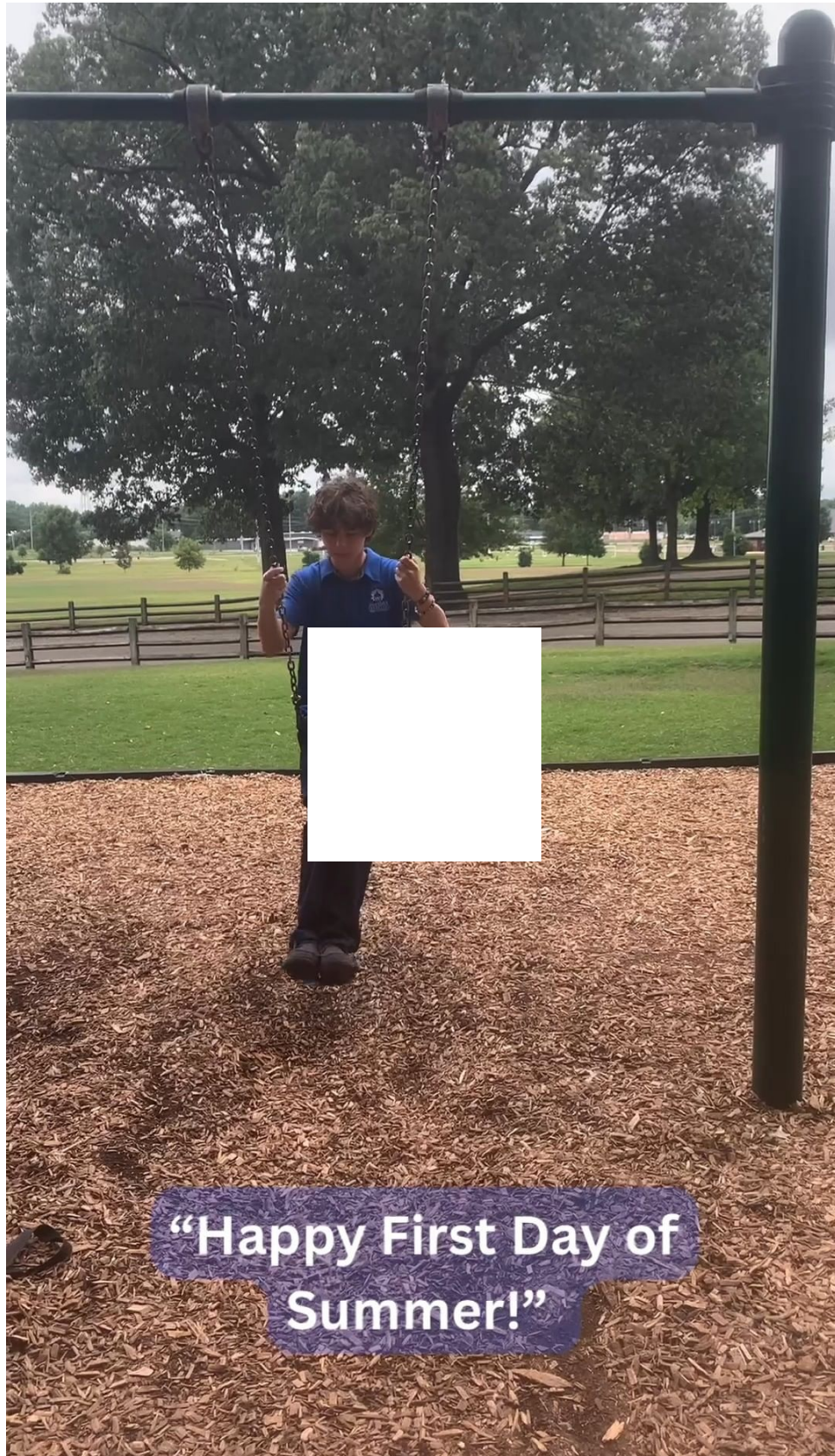
Gelineau, who selected the students from a pool of 17, said having Nicholas and Wilson working with her this summer “brings a new fresh perspective to our city with their outgoing personalities, creative ideas and eagerness.”

Nicholas and Wilson are shadowing Gelineau to learn the marketing side of her job, including shooting photos and videos, working on social media and organizing city events like the Fireworks Celebration on July 3.

“Their main goal is to up our Instagram and do youthful reels to try to broaden that audience a little bit,” Gelineau said.

Bartlett superintendent receives nearly perfect score on annual evaluation





The students are also getting the chance to engage with area business owners and

pass out promotional items.

Nicholas signed up for the program because he saw it as a resume-builder and a broad opportunity to gain experience.

“It’s really an honor to say we’re the first summer interns. I’ve learned a lot more communications stuff and a lot more of the behind-the-scenes aspects than I was expecting,” he said. “It’s more face-to-face meetings with the mayor, aldermen, and business owners than I expected.”

He plans to apply what he learns this summer to a “Forensics Speech and Debate” class he will take next year as a senior at Bartlett High.

Bartlett Chief Administrative Officer Steve Sones selected Boaz and Crocitto to work in the city fleet maintenance shop, where they are learning about hydraulics, changing oil, balancing tires, servicing street sweepers and helping to repair backhoes.

Bartlett training gives students head start on Megasite jobs

“Being that they’re still in high school, this will give them the experience to know whether they want to do this when they get out of school,” Fleet Maintenance Division Manager Steve Massey said. “We handle everything from a Weed Eater to a power truck, so the variety’s here.”

He expects the program will lead to getting more students interested in the field.

“When we do this for these kids, they gain access to valuable jobs skills that they may not know they had, they gain financial independence by earning a living, and it grows their professional network,” Parsons said.

He hopes to expand the program next year with more students, more opportunities in other city departments like police and fire, and possibly some internships at the Bartlett Tennessee College of Applied Technology facility.

TOPICS

BARTLETT BARTLETT HIGH STUDENT INTERNSHIPS MAYOR DAVID PARSONS
DEBBIE GELINEAU STEVE SONES

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