

Golden Strip Career Center Report To The Parents 2018-19

Mark Christopher, SIC Chairperson

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Golden Strip Career Center is helping all students develop world class skills and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by providing opportunities that will enable students to reach their highest individual potential to live and work successfully in a global economy. We foster an appreciation of the dignity of work, worth of the individual, pride of accomplishment, respect for quality workmanship, and the desire for excelling in a chosen career. We prepare graduates with the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to successfully enter and compete in today's job market or to continue their education at the post-secondary level. We offer dual enrollment through Greenville Technical College for several of our courses where students receive college credit along with their high school Carnegie units.

We added Diesel Technology and Digital Art & Design to our curriculum for the 2018-19 school year. These fields have a high demand for employees in the upstate, and students excelling in these courses have a bright future. In fact, we have already placed six interns in jobs for these programs. Golden Strip strives to offer courses that are of interest to students and provide ample opportunities for employment.

Work-based learning happens through cooperative education (co-op), internship, or apprenticeship experiences. These work-based learning experiences are a "win-win" in providing huge benefits to both the participating student and company. Students are able to apply the skills they are learning in class to real world situations. Companies can see, first hand, a student's work ethic and skills but also have the opportunity to teach them the way they want their employees to be before picking up bad work habits. As we all know, we do better when we know better, and work-based learning provides students who may not know better an opportunity to learn how to be, not just a good employee, but a great employee. We want our students to recognize the difference in staying in an entry-level job upon graduation versus having the opportunity to advance and have a rewarding career because of their work ethic and skills.

There are many examples of Golden Strip Career Center graduates who participated in work-based learning while students and are still with the same companies in rewarding careers. Golden Strip Career Center has numerous business partners but a few recognizable names where students participate in work-based learning are Michelin, Gregory Electric, Brasfield and Gorrie, Stueken, Rick Erwins, and the list goes on. These experiences are paid with students usually beginning at industry competitive entry-level wages.

We have five Mechatronics students who are participating in Michelin's Youth Apprenticeship program. These five students come to class 2 days per week and are training for highly skilled Reliability Tech positions at the US1 plant the other 3 days of the week and will work full-time throughout the summer. In addition, most of these students will continue their education at Greenville Tech but Michelin will cover the costs. When they graduate in two years from Greenville Tech they will begin a very lucrative career in a field they enjoy.

Golden Strip Career Center has continued to strengthen partnerships with area employers to provide a growing number of work-based learning experiences for our students. Partnerships with companies such

as Stueken, Gregory Electric, Carolina Heating and Air, Brasfield and Gorrie, as well as Greenville County Schools, and many others ensure that our students are receiving real-world training and experience in their chosen field.

Golden Strip Career Center students participate in student organizations related to their chosen career field. These organization include SkillsUSA and FCCLA. 100% of our students were members of SkillsUSA this school year. The SkillsUSA South Carolina Championships is the state-level competition for public high school and college students enrolled in trade, technical, and skilled service profession courses. This year Golden Strip had 43 students earning gold, silver or bronze awards. 10 students will be headed to Kentucky this summer to represent the state of South Carolina at the national competition. This is the largest number of national competitors in school history.

The opportunities for Golden Strip Career Center students are abundant. The 2018-19 school year saw the addition of two new programs and exciting work-based learning opportunities with upstate employers. Combined with a growing number of certifications offered at our center and the large number of winners at the SkillsUSA state competition, this has been a very successful year for our students. We are constantly striving to do more for our students and with the continued support of our stakeholders – students, parents, businesses, and the community – we will.