



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Workforce Connection Employer Appreciation Breakfast

Twenty-six employers of Goose Creek CISD students were recognized at the recent Student Workforce Connection Employer Appreciation Breakfast at the GCCISD Administration Building. During breakfast, guests enjoyed a slideshow featuring the students and their employers.

Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, welcomed the guests, explaining that due to the growing complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st-century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college and careers.

"The district has been blessed to have built amazing partnerships with the community, local businesses, industry and Lee College aligned to our career pathways. Through these partnerships we are able to connect education and training systems with the business community," said Dr. Duarte.

Dr. Tom Kelchner, director of special education, and Renea Dillon, director of career and technical education (CTE), provided an overview of the Student Workforce Connection.

"The Student Workforce Connection was created several years ago to expand the district's efforts to prepare our students for post-secondary life . . . whether it is in college, in a trade school, or in an entry-level occupation," said Dr. Kelchner.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Special Education have collaborated to focus on supporting students with entry-level positions closely related to their chosen career pathway. Students have participated in career preparation and vocational adjustment classes for general employability skills, clinical rotations to experience multiple departments, practicum classes in paid positions directly related to their career pathway and full-time paid internships (graduating seniors) to give them a head start in their chosen career path.

Special Education and CTE are working together to expand and strengthen the partnerships with businesses and meet the needs of all students, from gifted and talented to those with special needs.

Students who plan to attend college and those who do not, along with students who prefer hands-on jobs and those who prefer business situations, are also included in the plan, which would allow more students to participate in paid, unpaid and district-paid positions in the community.

"When we created the Student Workforce Connection, we had the vision that our students, prepared through a workforce partnership between GCCISD and local businesses, will graduate college and career ready with work experience and employability skills that will enable them to seek and maintain employment in our community," said Dillon.

The Student Workforce Connection set goals to help students build employability skills through internships, collaborating with worksite supervisors and district faculty members. In turn, businesses will receive assistance in recruiting highly motivated student employees who have training and/or an interest in a related career.

Sixty-four employers work with the Student Workforce Connection and 79 Goose Creek CISD students, including 48 community employers and 16 district employers.



Mark Garrett (left), computer maintenance technology teacher at Stuart Career Center, presents Robert Dunn, owner of Razor Hobbies and Garrett's former student, with a plaque in appreciation of his commitment to employing a Goose Creek CISD student. Adam Stout (right), a junior at Goose Creek Memorial High School, works with Dunn at Razor Hobbies, learning to use 3-dimensional printers. Dunn is wearing some glasses that were created on a 3-D printer. [View more photos click here.](#)

Thirty-eight of the employers will receive plaques and certificates honoring their new partnership with the Student Workforce Connection. Previous partners will receive a plate to add to their plaque and a certificate.

Worksite employers are American Architectural Products, Bay Area Rehabilitation Center, Bayou City Wings, Baytown Parks and Recreation, Big Toy Work, BreWingz, Chicken Express, Cracker Barrel, Dairy Queen, Discount Tire, Eagle Pointe Golf Course, El Toro, Envy Tan, EZ Wireless, Fish Place, Fitness Connection, Foodtown, Iguana Joe's, J & J Speedway, J. C. Penney, Kenneth's Paint and Body Shop, Kroger, McDonald's, National Tire & Battery, Olive Garden, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Panera Bread, Raspa Monsters, Razor Hobbies, Roadlink, Inc., Rock Hard Gym, Ron Craft Chevrolet, Ross, S. Oliver and Associates, L.P., Saruzzo's New York Pizza, Schlotzsky's Deli, Sonic Drive-In, Taqueria Arandas, Texas Roadhouse, Todd Welding & Press, Inc., Touch of Class, Town and Country Sales, Upgrade 2 Next Level, Wal-mart and Wood Finisher Depot.

Goose Creek CISD employers are Business Department, Facilities Management, Goose Creek Memorial High School, John M. Stuart Career Center, Peter E. Hyland Center, Robert E. Lee High School, Ross S. Sterling High School, Special Education Department and Technology Management Systems.

Other Goose Creek CISD faculty and staff members involved with the Student Workforce Connection include Melissa Botkin, CTE workforce liaison; Misty Calhoun, Goose Creek Memorial High School; Tameka Mills, CTE coordinator; Henriella Riley, Robert E. Lee High School; Linda Rye, GCCISD Special Education Department and Kelley Start, Ross S. Sterling High School.

Special thanks goes to the students from GCM Advanced Culinary Arts, REL Floral Design, GCM Floral Design, RSS Floral design and Stuart Career Center Computer Technology for providing assistance for the event.

"The district, our students and staff thank each of you (employers) for your continuous, tireless support and the commitment you have made to GCCISD student success," said Dr. Duarte.

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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