



### HOLLA!/YCC Connection Celebrates Four Years of Partnership on June 9

The inaugural class of the Youth Career Connect (YCC) STEM Academy celebrated four years of a valuable partnership with the HOLLA! Center in Morven before graduating during the district-wide ceremony on Saturday, June 9. 100% of the students participated in a mentoring program sponsored by the HOLLA! Center. The program entailed one-on-one mentoring, field trips and periodic motivational events held at center.

"HOLLA! has been a valuable partner for the Youth Career Connect STEM Academy program at Anson High School (AHS), one of only 24 such programs across the country," said Deborah Davis, Director of the program. Federally grant-funded by the United States Department of Labor's ETA Division, the AHS YCC program includes best practices elements recommended by the USDOL for career success, including student industry and career mentoring. Since AHS is classified as a 100% free and reduced lunch school, students are clearly impacted by a rural and economically deprived community. These factors put all students in the YCC program in the category of "at risk," as well, making the need for strong adult mentoring even more necessary. HOLLA! provides the mentoring component for Anson High YCC students, and those activities and services are favorites of these high school students. There are at least 80 students per grade level in mentoring each school year.

"The emphasis of the YCC program on exploring potential careers, understanding the expectations of the today's workplaces, and making those important connections

with employers has put this future workforce on a very solid foundation. Deborah Davis and Leon Gatewood have done an amazing job helping our students prepare for the future, wherever their paths take them next," said Scott Collier of South Piedmont Community College (SPCC). Collier has volunteered with the program since its inception. 54 of the students earned college certifications and marched in SPCC's commencement ceremony. Over 150 students are enrolled in college transferrable courses with the college.

"The YCC program has been extremely successful on the Anson High School campus. We are excited to expand the YCC Pathways from 4 to 11 Academies for the 2018-19 school term. We feel certain that this will positively impact all students in preparing them for college, careers and life," stated Chris Stinson, principal of Anson High School.

"I thank Principal Stinson and Ms. Davis for offering us this amazing opportunity to serve and be a positive influence in the lives of our children," said Leon Gatewood CEO and founder of HOLLA!

The seniors celebrated their final session at the center with food, prizes, fun and live entertainment from performing artist Kendricks Singletary.

HOLLA! is a 501 c 3 non-profit community development corporation operating from 229 East Main Street in Morven. For more information call 704.851.3144. The organization was founded in 2005 to assist with raising achievement levels in the local school system through its signature Youth Enrichment Program.



### Anson Athletes Enjoy Trip to NC Sports Hall of Fame

Anson County student athletes had the pleasure of attending the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame 55th Banquet thanks to the sponsorship of Chuck Horne and Hornwood Inc. Eight student athletes along with two chaperones from the Anson County School District attended the two day event.

On the first night students and chaperones attended the reception and banquet held at the Raleigh Convention Center. While there students and chaperones were able to witness fifteen Inductees become a part of the North Carolina Sports Museum. During the banquet Anson High School students were able to listen to inductees and their family members as they thanked those who supported them along the way.

On Saturday morning students visited the North Carolina Museum of History which showcased inductee banners displayed on the third floor. It was exciting to watch our students enjoy the

many exhibits housed throughout the museum. Our athletes were excited to see fellow inductees from the sport of track and field.

After touring the museum students attended a seminar which included former UNC-Chapel Hill basketball star Phil Ford. During the seminar students were able to enjoy a special panel discussion featuring several members of the induction class. Notably, during the panel Mr. Ford asked the students to take out their cellphones and provided them with his personal phone number. He stated, "There is always someone out there who is willing to listen when needed."

The following students aspire to be among those being honored at the NC Sports Hall of Fame:

- Patience Marshall, ranked 1st Place in state for discus/shotput, acknowledges that one day she could possibly be hanging from one of those banners.
- Ben Tillman, who ranked 3rd in the state for 4x2 relay team and 4th in the state for 300-meter low hurdle, along with Destiny Gayton, who ranked 1st in the state for triple jump, enjoyed the section which had an indoor track.
- Cyndey Livingston, a member of Rocky River 2018 Conference Girl Basketball championship team, was excited to see the shadowbox for Duke's player Steve Vacendak. Cyndey will be attending Duke this fall.
- Lauren Dutton played on the Volleyball team which placed in the 3rd round state playoff. Lauren was interested in all the inductees who have passed on.
- Octavion Harrell, a member of the Track and Field team who is currently in 3rd Place for the State Relay Team, took on the role of the person's personal tour guide.
- Camden Collins played offensive line for the football team and he is also a member of Track and Field team where he participates in discus/shotput.
- Jaylin Gaddy played center for Men's Basketball and defense line for Football. Jaylin and Camden were excited to see the different items from NBA star Michael Jordan on display.

The Anson County School District cannot thank Mr. Chuck Horne enough for providing our students with such an amazing opportunity.

Pictured above are Ben Tillman (ACEC), Destiny Gayton (AHS), Cyndey Livingston (AHS), Lauren Dutton (AHS), Jaylin Gaddy (AHS), Patience Marshall (ACEC), Camden Collins (ACEC) and Octavion Harrell (AHS). Not Pictured: Priscilla McDaniel and Joyce Clark (Chaperones).

### Ansonville Elementary School Raises \$7,005 for Heart Association

Ansonville Elementary recently finished this year's Jump Rope for Heart campaign. Miss Heather Williams, AES P.E. teacher, directed the fundraiser with enthusiasm. With help from students, staff and community members, AES raised \$7,005.40. This amount was more than double the amount raised last year. All proceeds were donated to the American Heart Association as a part of their nationwide Jump Rope for Heart campaign.

The staff at AES extends our deepest gratitude to all family, friends, and community members who helped make this year's Jump Rope for Heart campaign a huge success.

### Kesler Chapel AME Zion Church to Celebrate 140th Anniversary

The congregation of the Kesler Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church, located at 708 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, will celebrate one hundred and forty years of ministry and service to the Anson County community on Sunday, October 14, 2018. Service will begin at 10:00 a. m.

Over the next months the church will engage the community with several events to celebrate this milestone. The theme of the celebration is "1878 - 2018: Forging Forward for Freedom." Former members of Kesler Chapel and others are invited to attend and participate.

For more information, interested individuals can contact the church by email at keslerchapel@gmail.com. Kesler Chapel also has a Facebook page, and you can see frequent updates on that page.

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