

## Insight on Education By Superintendent Nick Carter

"The best way of learning about anything is by doing"–*Richard Branson*

The workforce has changed drastically over the last twenty years in our nation, and those who are willing and able to evolve are primed for prosperity. One aspect that is different for employers today is our nation's multi-generational workforce. Currently, four distinct generations (Traditionalists, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Generation Y) make up the American workforce. Traditionalists were born between 1927 and 1945 and are known for their loyalty to organizations. Baby Boomers were born between 1946 and 1964 and are famous for developing unconventional solutions to economic demands. Generation X was born between 1965 and 1980 and have an aversion to risk while maintaining high confidence levels in their abilities. Generation Y was born after 1981 and value their individuality and appreciate being rewarded for individual achievements.

We have much to appreciate and be thankful for regarding the different generations who currently make up the American workforce. Their hard work and commitment to excellence has afforded all of us the opportunity to live in the greatest nation on earth. Our Generation Y students are preparing to graduate and enter a technology driven workforce that values critical thinking, effective communication, initiative, teamwork, and resiliency. The Breckinridge County School District decided in late 2017 to begin developing a "Profile of a Graduate," while developing new mission and vision statements. A Task Force was created comprising of community members, school district staff members, parents, and students in an effort to develop a "Profile of a Graduate" focused on maximizing Breckinridge County children's futures. As a school district, we must continue to place a strong emphasis on student academics while ensuring student opportunities in the arts, career/technical fields, and extracurricular activities.

As we prepare our future graduates to be "life-ready" upon entering the adult world, we must connect their learning to the workforce ready skills of resiliency, critical thinking, teamwork, effective communication, and taking initiative. Fully developing these skills while engaging in a rigorous academic curriculum centered on opportunities, will allow our future graduates to soar into the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.