ON-THE-JOB TRAINING — Brycen Walker, a 2018 graduate of Southwestern Randolph High School, serves as an apprentice at Allen Machine & Fabrication through the Apprenticeship Randolph program.

Business After Hours to feature Apprenticeship Randolph

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ASHEROBO — Attendance at this month’s Business After Hours will have a chance to not only meet new people and make more connections, but also learn about a budding program in Randolph County.

Apprenticeship Randolph is hosting the event Thursday, Nov. 15, in celebration of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) from 5:30-7 p.m. at the JB and Claire Davis Corporate Training Center in the Continuing Education and Industrial Center (CEIC) on Randolph Community College’s Asheboro Campus.

To kick off NAW, which is Nov. 12-18, Apprenticeship Randolph committee co-chairs Chris Harrington of Elastic Therapy Inc. and Jeff Callcott of Jasco Precision Inc., along with four current apprentices, requested a Proclamation at Monday night’s Randolph County Board of Commissioners meeting, declaring the second full week of November as “Apprenticeship Week in Randolph County” annually. The proclamation, which was adopted unanimously, will be on display at Business After Hours.

Apprenticeship Randolph began in June 2016 as a collaboration among RCC, the Randolph County School System, Asheboro City Schools, the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce and members of the local manufacturing industry.
The goal was to bridge both the interest and skills gaps in modern manufacturing and provide a vehicle for expanding the workforce pool for advanced manufacturing in the county. With tuition funded through Career and College Promise and the N.C. Youth Apprenticeship Tuition Waiver Program and books paid for by the school systems and the participating companies, the Apprenticeship Randolph produces an educated, skilled, debt-free workforce.

Apprenticeship Randolph, which is for high school juniors and seniors, begins with a six-week, pre-apprenticeship summer program that consists of two RCC classes and 40 hours per week of on-the-job training. Once a business selects its apprentice, after this trial period, the program is spread over four years with students receiving paid, on-the-job training while earning an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Manufacturing Technology through RCC and a Journeyman Certificate from the N.C. Community College System and the U.S. Department of Labor. Sixteen apprentices were selected in August 2017 as the inaugural class.

On Aug. 9, 17 students were selected as participants with the second year of Apprenticeship Randolph and took part in a signing ceremony in the R. Alton Cox Learning Resources Center Auditorium at RCC. The current 16 industries and 31 apprentices in the program are:

- Allen Machine & Fabrication: Apprentice, Brycen Walker
- Covanta Environmental Solutions: Apprentice, Joshua Cox
- DS Smith: Apprentices, Justin Williams and Ethan Earls
- Energizer: Apprentice, Ben Cable
- EG Industries: Apprentices, Joshua Baker and Tanner Loggains
- Elastic Therapy Inc.: Apprentices, Xaxandria Bell, Brayan Guerrero, Rocky Lewis and Jorge Martinez
- Hubbell Industrial Controls: Apprentices, Brandon Hill and Jesse Osborne
- Jaeco Precision Inc.: Apprentice, Jonathan Mroczkowski
- MAS Acme: Apprentice, Luke Greer
- Mohawk Industries: Apprentices, Nic Fless and Monroe Presnell
- PEMMCO Manufacturing Inc.: Apprentices, Gary Goss and Dakota Wolford
- Phoenix Precision Machining: Apprentice, Ryan Woods
- Post Consumer Brands: Apprentices, Keshon Coleman and Joshua DeFreece
- Sapona Plastics: Apprentices, Nik Gumbas and Colby Edwards
- NAV is a national celebration that offers leaders in business, labor, education, and other critical partners a chance to demonstrate their support for Apprenticeship. It also gives Apprenticeship sponsors the opportunity to showcase their programs, facilities and apprentices in their community. The week-long event highlights the benefits of Apprenticeship in preparing a highly-skilled workforce to meet the talent needs of employers across diverse industries. The week has grown year after year since its inception in 2015 with more than 200,000 people attending nearly 2,000 events in all 50 states this year.

The Business After Hours series was created by the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members, industry partners, and potential industry partners are invited to attend to network, enjoy hors d’oeuvres from the Southwestern Randolph High School ProStart Culinary Cougars, and have a chance at winning door prizes. The CEIC is located at 413 Industrial Park Ave.