Business

Continuing to grow, Apprenticeship Randolph adds Automotive Systems Technology program

ASHBORO — Thanks to partnerships between local industries and area schools, the Apprenticeship Randolph program has continued to grow since its inception in 2016. The latest addition? Apprenticeships in Automotive Systems Technology.

The Automotive Systems Technology youth apprenticeship will follow the same schedule as the current Manufacturing Technology program. Students must attend at least one open house in their desired program area with parents or guardians attending one as well. Applications are open until Wednesday, March 6.

Open house registration is currently online at www.apprenticeshiprandolph.com where students can sign up to tour Thomas Tire & Automotive locations throughout Randolph County. More automotive companies may be added.

Interested juniors and seniors who reside and go to school in the county can sign up for an open house and fill out an application to be considered for this learn-and-earn opportunity.

Apprenticeship Randolph began in June 2016 as a collaboration among Randolph Community College, the Randolph County School System, Asheboro City Schools, the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce and local manufacturers. 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, Apprenticeship Randolph produces an educated, skilled, debt-free workforce.

The program, 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 that 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 or in Automotive Systems Technology through RCC and a Journeycraft Certificate from the N.C. Community College System and U.S. Department of Labor.

Currently, there are 28 apprentices in the program with titles such as CNC Machinist, Tool Maker, Medical Knitting Technician, Robotics Technician, Maintenance Technician, Plastics Technician and Electronics Technician.

For more information, visit www.apprenticeshiprandolph.com, contact RCC Pathways Activities Coordinator Stacey Miller at 336-318-4958 or email apprenticeshiprandolph@gmail.com.