Mayoral, Council candidates are unopposed

Mayo Bert Lance-Stone and two current city council members will be joined by John A. Glass, who filed for his first term on the Archdale City Council. Outgoing Councilman Eddie Caeskey declined to run for his at-large seat, clearing the way for Glass to be unopposed. Caeskey has served on council for the past 18 years. Lance-Stone is currently serving his eighth consecutive term and is excited about returning for a ninth. For the next four years, Ward 1 will remain Larry Warlick’s district of representation, while Lewis Bossett, who currently serves Ward 4, will do so again.

For the third straight local election cycle, none of the candidates running for mayor and council will face an opponent. Glass, who has served on the Archdale Planning Board, is expected to become the first newee to the Archdale City Council in 14 years. Archdale last had a contested council race in 2012. The Archdale City Council is made up of a mayor, two at-large council seats and four ward members.

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Skills being acquired by the students include working with a robotic spot welder, MIG welding, loading parts onto lines for powder-coating and running various types of machinery including shapers and punchers.

“Welding is a career path,” said manufacturing engineer Eric Bartlett, who has been with the company more than nine years. “(The students) have actually had lots of opportunities to operate robotic machinery, including the robotic welder and robotic wire bender. It is a big area of skills that they are being exposed to.”

When the NEWS caught up with Martinez, he was loading a series of fixtures into a robotic spot-welder. “I am learning new stuff and new skills,” he said. “Sometimes I weld; sometimes I do other stuff.”

As part of the partnership, Martinez acquired some of the skills he would need before he began working June 18.

Both Chontal and Martinez have taken Ag Mechanics with Trinity High School instructor Michael Harmon.

Before entering the Randolph Work$ program, Harmon consulted with Operations Manager Dana Gaither to find out what skills they would need. Using materials provided by Gaither, students practiced the skills they would need so they would be ready to work their first day on the job.

Said Monty Wolc, career development coordinator for Trinity High School, “Mr. Harmon met with Dana Gaither, who supplied materials and supplies, to practice the needed skills so they could just jump right in and be ready to go. Part of the program is the mentorship.”

According to Career-Technical Director Nancy Cross, the Randolph Work$ program was designed to eliminate as many student barriers as possible. When she saw a presentation for a similar program in another state, she knew it would fill a need in the RCS district. “We have found that we have a number of students that have dropped out because of economic need. With this program we are incentivizing them to graduate. We have seen an increase in graduation rates.”

Gaither said the program is beneficial for his company, as well as for the young recruits.

“From a business perspective, it gets us young, motivated individuals who are ready to go to work,” he said. “I could tell when I interviewed them that I wanted these kids. These kids run circles around anyone else. We would like to see them continue and be long-term employees. They engage with their employers in a work-based learning experience. It’s a great program.”

As part of the Randolph Work$ program, Ricky Martinez worked with Trinity High School Ag Mechanics instructor Michael Harmon to learn essential skills that would be needed at Design Master Displays. Here, he utilizes MIG welding skills acquired before he reported for work.