Teachers, businesses team for internship program

By Annette Jordan
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ASHEBORO — The teachers who participated in the Summer Teacher Internship Program used a lot of accolades to describe their experiences this past week. “Eye-opening” was a favorite.

Eighteen local teachers and 18 local businesses participated in the program, which kicked off July 16 with a breakfast at the Randolph County School System (RCSS) administrative offices and ended July 20 with a luncheon at the Asheboro City Schools (ACS) Professional Development Center.

Now in its 28th year, the program is co-sponsored by the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce, ACS, RCSS, The Courier-Tribune, Randolph Electric Membership Corp. and Charlie’s Heating & Cooling.

For a week, teachers are immersed with businesses throughout the community where they get a firsthand look at the skills needed for a variety of jobs and then go back to the classroom and tailor lesson plans to teach real-world skills to their students. Businesses, for their part, can gain insight into the challenges facing teachers and offer valuable tips on what they require in employees.

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At Friday’s finale, several teachers shared their impressions and how the experience will help them guide students along career paths.

“I’ve lived in Asheboro my entire life and I had no idea what goes on there,” said Catherine Davis, an eighth-grade English/Language Arts teacher at North Asheboro Middle School, who interned at the Randolph Public Library. She was amazed at the variety of services provided, from helping people trace their ancestry to providing internet hot-spot access. She couldn’t wait to share her insight with colleagues and students.

“I really enjoyed my week. It really is an eye-opening experience to see how the wheels turn behind the scenes to keep all of us healthy and safe,” said Pachovia Lovett, a social worker for Randolph Elementary, middle and high schools. She interned at Randolph County Emergency Services. She was interested in introducing students, especially those who are contemplating career path, to all the opportunities available, including fire and law enforcement.

Judy Hult, a sixth-grade English/Language Arts teacher at North Asheboro Middle School, interned at the Asheboro Police Department and said it was eye-opening to see how the program—a new addition for the sixth grade—works. She was looking forward to sharing her experiences with her sixth-graders.

Tracy Whitley, a Northeastern Randolph Middle School counselor for the sixth through eighth grades, was matched with Randolph Community College. She was looking forward to sharing her experiences with her eighth-graders, who are contemplating what to do with their futures, all the “fabulous programs, technology and education opportunities” available at the college that could help them in choosing a career. As an added bonus, she couldn’t wait to enlighten their parents to make them “aware of what’s out there.”

Nancy Cross, director of career technical education and innovative school design for RCSB, in running up the program and its mission, used a comparison from the book, “The Last Garden.”

“The book gave me great inspiration about vacations as being the place where you can find peace and escape the deep waters of the world. She said, setting the world is hungry for lists of service businesses. If we can help students align things that they are passionate about with things that the world is longing for, what a more fulfilling life they will have. “I’m very passionate about, at younger and younger ages, exposure on what you can do, how can you dream of growing up to be

something of if you don’t know that something exists. Any way we can continue to expose students to opportunities and something to connect their passion with that will lead to a life-long, successful experience is what we are hoping for. I hope you can take this experience and apply it in such a way that you can do just that.”

Amber Mowery, RHS, at UCHC.
Catherine Davis, NAMS, at Asheboro Public Library.

Officer Brad Fox, Asheboro Police Department, Jennifer May, Uwharrie Ridge.

Cathy Olvera, SAMS, at Elastic Therapy.

Tresa Hatchett, a Providence Grove High School English/Vocational Arts for 12th grade, who interned at the Randolph County Public Library with Tracy Walden.

Judy Hult, SAMS, Josh Cain and Bernadine Ward, City of Asheboro Water Plant.

Jennifer Martin, PHS, at Prosser.

Nichole Godfrey, SAMS, St. Stephen Academy, Randleman.

Morgan Crandall, an eighth-grade Randolph Middle School English/Language Arts teacher, who interned at the Randolph County Cooperative Extension Service with Tracey Walden.

Dustin Hagood, a Southwestern Randolph Middle School teacher for sixth through eighth grades, Math, Science, English and Social Studies, who interned at the Randolph County Department of Social Services with Tonii Welch.

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