teachers learning in real-world classrooms

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Last week, 18 Asheboro City Schools and Randolph County School System teachers participated in the 27th annual Summer Teacher Internship Program. This program gives teachers the opportunity to get out of the classroom and listen to, learn from and work in the business sector.

Teachers were paired with businesses and organizations across the county to learn about the labor market and the skills that students need in order to become successful employees.

We Start Over There
— Pictured is Andrew Atwell, left, at Timken Company. Atwell was participating in the 27th annual Summer Teaching Internship Program.

Program

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Organizations see the value of this type of partnership. It allows them to show and give firsthand knowledge of the work that is required and the necessary skills to do that work.

The Christians United Outreach Center (CUOC) was a beneficiary of the teacher internship program. “Any time we can ‘show and tell’ our story to someone,” director Debbie Cole said, “it helps to promote all that we do at CUOC. Having the intern here has made that possible.” Teachers benefit from the experience as well.

Cathy Napol, a media specialist from Southwestern Randolph High School, experienced many rewards from the program.

“As an educator, it benefits me by knowing about this program and being able to promote and educate others about the volunteer experience, but it also benefits me personally by being more involved in my community and seeing the need for volunteering and donating to the COUC,” she said.

Randolph Community College hosted Catherine Davis, an eighth-grade teacher at North Asheboro Middle School. According to Suzanne Rohrbaugh, Vice President of Instructional Services, “This experience allows us to better understand how we can expose middle school students to educational opportunities throughout the year.”

Rev. Glenn Paez, a local pastor, said, “The program gives students an opportunity to explore different career paths that may not be available in the classroom setting.

Program

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The program includes a variety of volunteer opportunities and allows students to gain hands-on experience in different fields. Some of the participating businesses are:

- Asheboro Police Department
- Kerri Lamb, South Asheboro Middle School
- Asheboro Public Library
- Michelle Williams, Randolph Middle School
- Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce — Michele Saunders, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Christians United Outreach Center
- Cathy Napol, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Electric Threapy/DJO Global
- Lora Hill, Eastern Randolph High School
- Hospice of Randolph County — Rita Martin, Asheboro High School
- Oliver Rubber Company — Rebecca Brady, Northeastern Randolph Middle School
- Randolph Community College — Catherine Davis, North Asheboro Middle School
- NCSU Cooperative Extension, Randolph County Center — Tony Goldstein, Southeastern Randolph Middle School
- Randolph County Emergency Management Services — Molly Kenyon, Southwestern Randolph Middle School
- Southside Randolph Middle School
- Randolph County Senior Adults Association — Jessica Latham, Southwestern Randolph Middle School
- Randolph County Sheriff’s Office — Michael Fleming, Asheboro High School
- Randolph County Social Services — Virginia Washburn, Wheatsmore High School
- Randolph Electric Membership Corp. — Kelly Patton, North Asheboro Middle School
- Randolph Health — Meredith Mitchell, Providence Grove High School
- The Timken Company — Andrew Atwell, Southwestern Randolph High School

Throughout the school year, the participating businesses and organizations are available to students as resources and mentors.

AT WORK — Kelly Patton, above, is on the job with Randolph Electric Membership Corp. At left, Michele Saunders is at Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce.

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