

## The Future meets the Present at Bridges Academy

Students at Bridges Academy took part in the first annual career day on March 22, 2019. This event was organized by 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Charley Collins, Heather Brown and Kim White, and connected students with professionals and craftsmen from throughout the area.

“This was a much needed event” said Bridges Academy Co-Director Shannon Pruitt. “Students were given an outstanding educational opportunity by bringing these people in here.”

Representatives of the Wilkes County Sheriff’s Department, Bridges Academy, the United States’ Marines, Lowes Corporation, the Surry County Building Inspection Department, the Wilkesboro Water Treatment Plant, Hugh Chatham Hospital, the State Road Fire Department and a local musician, electrician and a telecommunications specialist attended. They interacted with students offering their experiences in their fields.

“This job is never boring” stated School Resource Officer Joshua Greene of the Wilkes County Sheriff’s Department. “You never know what you might get into each day.”

“Teaching is a job that you must like in order to be effective” said Bridges Academy Teacher Jackie Collins. “This is a job that you do because you like children and not for the money.”

“My job is not just putting food in the pot to cook” said child nutrition specialist Sandy Sizemore. “We have to keep records on nutritional facts, cooking temperatures and meals served and we must do this twice each day.”

“I work mostly with people with leg and hip injuries” stated orthopedic nurse Candy Branch. “I like to help people.”

“The military offers people a lot of experiences” said retired Marine Keith Waddell. “I have been stationed in Africa, Europe, Asia and many places in the United States.”

“Music is now my hobby” said local musician Bobby Billings, “but at one point in my life it was my main job. One of my favorite songs that I have written, ‘Twenty-one Guns’, is about a friend of mine who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq.”

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Jasmine Harper was glad to attend. “Things like this are beneficial because they can help people to figure out what they might do with their lives.”

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Colby Burris was impressed with the number of presenters. “All these people came here to help us figure out what we might like to do later in life and that is pretty neat.”

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Collins, who helped organize the event, was pleased with what she saw. “The kids got valuable time with adult professionals in the community which might help them figure out what they might like to do in the future.”

On career day at Bridges the future met the present.

By Evan Hayes (Bridges Academy 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student)