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## Congratulations to GPP Cornerstone Community Winners



Athens-Clarke County GPP Platinum Award

## Check it out! New Website!

Start out the new school year by exploring the new and improved Great Promise Partnership website!

[www.gppartnership.com](http://www.gppartnership.com)

The new site allows you to:

- Meet students who have thrived through work, school and GPP experiences
- See how companies meet their recruitment needs through GPP
- Sign up for a partners log in to manage your GPP experience
- Read about the businesses throughout Georgia that support GPP and how you can get involved

Six exceptional communities were honored at the 2018 Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention. Leadership from government, business, community and schools in these communities work together and exemplify the mission of GPP to equip at-risk youth to stay in school and gain real-world job skills and experience.

**Athens-Clarke County** earned the **Platinum Cornerstone Community Award** which is the highest level of achievement. They engaged 12 employers, 69 students, and comprehensive support for successful workforce development.

Other community award winners recognized at the GMA Annual Convention are:

## **Gold Level**

- Douglas/Coffee County

## **Silver Level**

- Swainsboro/Emanuel County

## **Bronze Level**

- Blairsville/Union County
- City of Valdosta
- Vidalia & Lyons/Toombs County

**Bartow County** also earned Bronze Level but was not present at the GMA convention.

Cornerstone Communities create a pipeline of work-ready young people who will graduate high school, go to college, the military, or straight into the local workforce. Cornerstone communities convene meetings of leaders, engage with companies that hire students, support GPP as a workforce development strategy, coordinate with high school work-based learning, provide mentors to students, and engage with life skills for GPP participants.

Want to learn how your community can become a Cornerstone Community? Get more information at [www.gppartnership.org](http://www.gppartnership.org) and contact your GPP regional coordinator.



## **Leadership Adventure Weekend – Your Future, Fun and Friendship Ahead**

Heads up! The Leadership Adventure Weekend for GPP students is around the corner. The LAW is a fall retreat for GPP youth to build leadership skills and plan for careers. Through an adventure theme, they focus on educational goals, career options, teamwork and soft skills to tackle life's challenges. Specially trained instructors facilitate activities like rope courses, team challenges, and interactive projects. **The date and details are coming soon.**

[Contact us](#) if your business or community would like to support the Leadership Adventure Weekend.



Douglas/Coffee County Gold Award Winner



Swainsboro/Emanuel Co. - Silver Award Winner



Blairsville/Union Co. - Bronze Award Winner



City of Valdosta - Bronze Award Winner



Vidalia & Lyons/Toombs Co. - Bronze Award Winner

## GPP Student Spotlight

### Wesley Bruce

Wesley was recognized at the East Jackson County Comprehensive High School Honors Night by Ms. Laura Boswell, Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Jackson County Schools. In Ms. Boswell's words,

"The Work-Based Learning award is given to a student who begins each day clocking in at 6:50 a.m. at Kubota Industrial Equipment and clocks out at 10:00 a.m. to report to school. Wesley Bruce, a GPP student, works in the shipping and receiving department. Greg Worley of Kubota praised Wesley's dedication and consistency and felt that Bill Belichick summarized Wesley's character traits through this quote, "It is not all about talent. It's about dependability, consistency, being coachable, and understanding what you need to do to improve." Wesley has never been late to work, never called out, has worked over 475 hours and earned over \$5,000 this school year and hopes to gain full-time employment upon graduation. The recipient of the EJCHS Work Based Learning award is Wesley Bruce.



Congratulations Wesley!

### Salona Allen

Ms. Salona Allen and the Elberton community epitomize partnership that helps Georgia youth



succeed. Salona participated in GPP as a senior at Elbert County Comprehensive High School, working at the Elbert County UGA Extension Service office. GPP Coordinator Hilda Garrison and Christi Duncan, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) VR Career Specialist at ECCHS, encouraged Salona to embrace new opportunities that came her way. As a result of her determination and support from GPP, GVRA, the Extension Service, and Friends Helping Friends Club, Inc. which helps Elbert County students overcome challenges, Salona earned a scholarship to travel to North Dakota where she learned about the Lakota native culture. Salona continues her 4-H internship, traveling to 14 states to learn about a variety of work experiences.

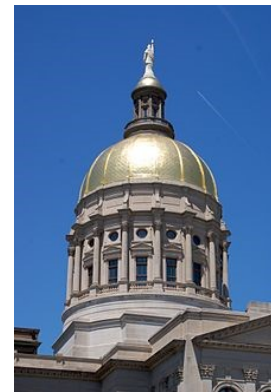
To cap off her successful year, Ms. Allen was a recipient of the McMullan Memorial Vocational Scholarship Award. As the award presenter said, "This year, awarding the McMullan Memorial Vocational Scholarship was even sweeter because of the extraordinary young lady who won. Salona won my heart with her compassion, beautiful smile, humorous attitude and hard work ethic. She is a special gift to the world and I am so blessed to have worked beside her this semester. I know she will do incredible things."

Salona plans to attend Athens Technical College this fall.

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### Leadership Day at the Capitol

Planning is underway for GPP Leadership Day at the Capitol, an opportunity to excite and engage Great Promise Partnership youth in leadership and civics. Students will spend the day at the capitol, meeting state legislators and learning about the legislative process that impact Georgia and their local communities. Details coming soon! If you're interested in supporting this lesson in leadership and civic engagement, contact us at [info@gpppartnership.org](mailto:info@gpppartnership.org).



Learn how you can donate or volunteer.

## How you can help!

Donate/Volunteer





[info@gppartnership.org](mailto:info@gppartnership.org)



404-229-1677



P.O. Box 1647  
Decatur, Georgia 30031

