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Get Involved



GPP + Entrepreneurship = SUCCESS



Willie Craddock, Jr. promoting his book

GPP has always promised students work experience, mentoring and life skills training. More and more we're seeing GPP students use their new skills, energy and confidence to take the leap into entrepreneurship. Here are three stories of GPP self-starters.

Do you have two books promoted on Amazon.com? Former GPP student **Willie Craddock, Jr.** does! This 2018 graduate of Clarke County Cedar Shoals High School is the master of free enterprise. As a GPP student for two years at the Georgia Center at the University of Georgia, Willie worked two jobs, gathered almost 130,000 Instagram followers, published two books, created a Willie Official App, started a clothing line and graduated from high school.

GPP in the News

Check out one of the dozen



Regional Fall Meetings of the **Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)** to learn about community advocacy across Georgia AND hear about Great Promise Partnership. For a complete list of meeting and locations, go to www.accg.org.



If you're a state employee, did you know that you can now donate to GPP in the annual **Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program**? GPP's SCCP code is **218076**. Hurry, the campaign ends October 31st. Contact your agency GASCCP coordinator or go to www.gasccp.org for more information

Despite growing up with multiple moves and family tragedies, Willie is now enrolled at Georgia State University, preparing for his next success in life. As Willie says, "I've got a work ethic. I've had to work for everything I have. I grew up without a support system so I want teens to know that it's not where you are from, it's where you are going."



Over in Brookhaven, Cross Keys High School students are tackling business development as a group effort. When Renaissance on Peachtree Senior Living hired seven GPP students as servers this fall, it spurred students to come up with a new business idea: a mobile hair salon for senior citizens. These DeKalb County students have dug into research about what elders desire to stay active, attractive and at their best whether they are in their own community or out on the town. Renaissance Dining Director Jarvis Wynn has already provided guidance, suggesting the students target a niche of small to medium senior communities that may not have the advantage of an in-house beauty salon. We'll keep you posted on how this idea takes shape!

Finally, if you happen to be at the Athens Community Career Academy, stop by the student-run Buzz Café and see if GPP participant **Anthoni Wright** is on duty. This Classic City High School student works with Clarke County Work-Based Learning Coordinator Wesley Mellina and Chef Emanuel Stone, the Culinary Department teacher. Anthoni and his fellow Buzz Cafe student workers are now cooking up a new business idea: a mobile snack and drink service. Homemade cookies and banana bread baked by Career Academy culinary students are delivered to teachers and students throughout the day. This brainchild of Anthoni's is now a sweet success with teamwork from Career Academy students!



In big ways and small, GPP students are bursting with creativity, energy and an entrepreneurial eye toward the future!

Get Ready for LAW!

Ever need to step back, let off some steam and think about next steps in your life? Well, GPP students do too! That's why they have their calendars marked for the March 22-24, 2019 Leadership Adventure Weekend (LAW) at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. We need your help, too. Consider becoming a LAW sponsor to help low income students from around the state participate in team building, leadership and career planning activities. Join the generous sponsorship of Shaw Industries to give GPP students a retreat to remember! Contact us at 404-229-1677 or info@gpppartnership.org for more information.

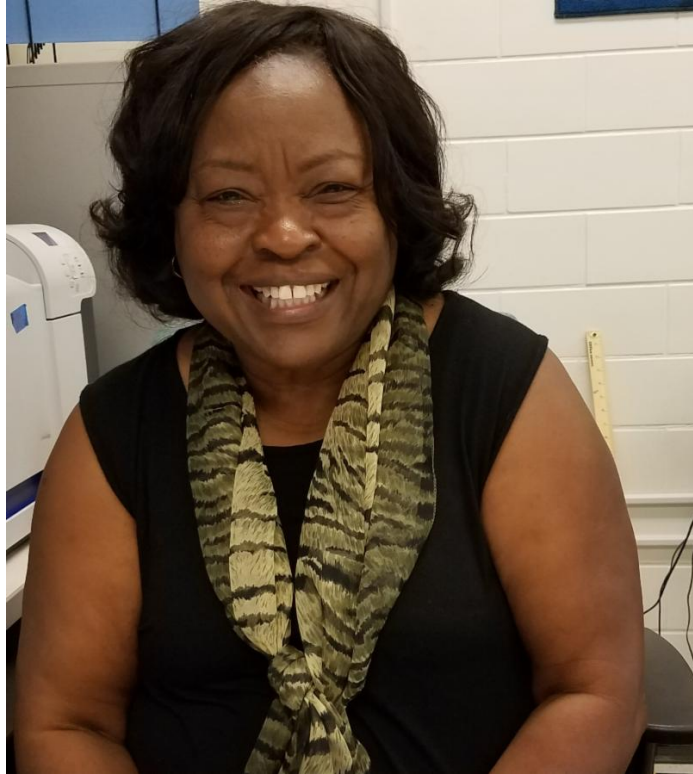
Welcome New GPP Businesses



GPP Spotlight

Bonds Don't Break

"I don't babysit my grandkids every day and I'm certainly not going to babysit you!" That booming voice of Glenda Bonds, GPP and Work-Based Learning Coordinator for the DeKalb County School District, immediately hushed the restless class of Cross Keys High School students who got to work on their online job applications. Glenda's command and compassion for high school students is nothing new. She has taught for more than 40 years and was one of the original GPP teachers when we started 6 years ago. GPP has opened a new world of opportunity for her and her students, many of whom are refugees and immigrants.



Glenda has had students become the first in their families to not only graduate from high school but earn a 4-year scholarship to college. Other students have moved from a part-time GPP position to a full-time job with benefits upon graduation.

Even when challenges arise, Glenda is there to work through them. She works with students and their supervisors to make sure students know the importance of dressing for the job, showing up on time, and respecting coworkers. This year she supported a quiet student who had never worked before to step out of her comfort zone and interview for a position at a senior living facility. Not only did the student get the job, she has earned accolades from her supervisor, is in line for a raise, and is blossoming at school.

Glenda has gone above and beyond in other ways. She has been a chaperone at GPP's Leadership Adventure Weekend, even though it meant sleeping in a bunk bed! She also plans annual retreats for her students, takes them to state SkillsUSA technical skills competition, and is even planning a reunion for all her GPP students over the past 5 years.

Glenda's advice to employers: "Take a chance! These young people need a helping hand to succeed, and schools can't do it alone." We thank Glenda for her many years of service for the youth of GPP in DeKalb County.

Growing GPP



Hiring students is at the heart of GPP – students earn much needed wages, schools reduce dropout rates, and communities have one more economic development tool. But even if you can't hire a student, you CAN support GPP – it's easy as 123!

1. Donations big and small help at-risk students in your community and across Georgia. GPP is a 501(c)(3) with the EIN 45-4371255. Send checks to Great Promise Partnership PO Box 1647, Decatur, GA 30031.
2. As the holidays approach, don't forget you can shop online to support Great Promise Partnership. Through Amazon Smile, when you shop, Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to GPP. Go to www.smile.amazon.com to start today.
3. Follow us on social media – connect with icons in this newsletter or go to www.gpppartnership.org. If you have a GPP story to tell about a student, school or business, we'd love to feature it – just shoot us a message at info@gpppartnership.org. And don't forget to text **GREATPROMISE** (All CAPS) @22822 for GPP updates!

Learn how you can donate or volunteer.

How you can help!

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