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Get Involved



UPS Joins GPP

United Parcel Service, better known as UPS, takes pride in its delivery fleet of over 115,000 delivery vans, cars, motorcycles and even tractors. Beginning in January, UPS will also take pride in its collaboration with Great Promise Partnership and South Atlanta High School.



This great opportunity started with a recent meeting between GPP Executive Director Lori Heemann, UPS Area Human Resources Manager Ernest Ward and HR Supervisor Marva Stone. The GPP/UPS partnership was a natural: Atlanta Public School (APS) students need part-time jobs and experience in a growing industry like logistics, and UPS needs part-time workers to staff its campus on Fulton Industrial Boulevard which includes the brand new Southeast Metro Automated Routing Terminal.

As Lori explained, “GPP is an ideal labor source for part-time positions in demand occupations like transportation and logistics. The fact that UPS is headquartered in Atlanta is icing on the cake. We hope this is just the beginning and that GPP students will work at UPS facilities all across Georgia in the near future.”



Marva Stone tells the UPS story to South Atlanta HS students

Once Mr. Ward and Ms. Stone learned about GPP, they immediately planned a pilot with GPP. With support from APS Superintendent Meria Carstarphen and South Atlanta High School Principal Dr. Patricia Ford, 14 students were selected to interview for five part-time Package Handler positions. Work-Based Learning Coordinator Thomas Dunn and GPP Regional Coordinator Ann Shirra helped students learn about UPS, practice interviewing and dress for success.

Ms. Stone met with students before their interviews. Students learned that they

could find careers at UPS beyond logistics such as nursing, mechanics, IT, legal services and accounting. Marva walked them through UPS career paths, including full-time work out of high school, part-time work during college and a commitment to hiring veterans after military service. Ms. Stone shared that her journey with UPS started as a package assistant on a delivery truck.

The students' hard work paid off. Rather than offer jobs to just five students, UPS offered jobs to all 14 students! They will begin work in early 2019. When asked how they'll use their earnings, students plan to save for college, help their families make ends meet, and participate in school events.

UPS provides excellent opportunities for students. Through the UPS Earn and Learn program, employees receive all the paid benefits of a part-time job, plus education assistance of up to \$5,250 per year with a lifetime maximum of \$25,000. This benefit covers tuition, books and fees at an approved college, university, trade or technical school. Students are eligible for the Earn and Learn program on their first day of work.



South Atlanta HS Work-Based Learning Coordinator Thomas Dunn helps students define qualities of a good employee

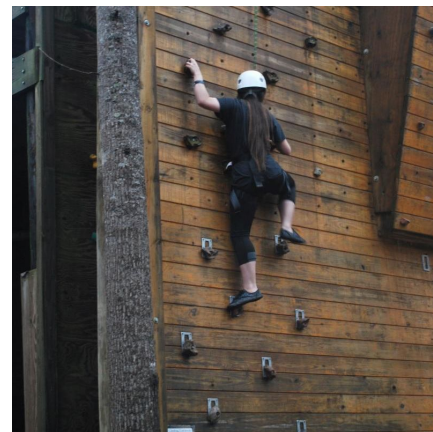
We're proud to have UPS as a GPP employer. UPS is dedicated to improving lives and strengthening communities where employees live and work, including better high school graduation rates and financial stability. Together, we can help that commitment succeed.

Lights, Camera, Action! Flexsteel in the News



Middle Georgia has a new star! Quashon Butler recently made his TV debut on WMAZ, showcasing his success as a

Great Promise Partnership participant at Flexsteel Furniture in Dublin, Georgia (www.flexsteel.com/.) Quashon is pictured here with GPP Regional Coordinator Marvin Stafford.



The Power of YOU! 2019 Leadership Adventure Weekend

Students will explore **The Power of YOU!** at the 2019 Leadership Adventure Weekend (LAW),

Quashon has faced challenges and fell behind in school. But his mom and Principal Brian Howell at Moore Street School thought he was up for a new opportunity at Flexsteel. Now Quashon starts each weekday at Flexsteel, building sofas and brings home a much-needed paycheck. He returns to school each afternoon to work towards graduation.



“At Flexsteel, students don’t get special treatment,” says Stephanie Harrison in human resources. “They go through an interview process, background check and drug tests, just so they can land a job.” Flexsteel plans to hire additional GPP students this year.

Our thanks to WMAZ for highlighting Quashon Butler, Flexsteel Furniture and Dublin, Georgia. See the TV segment here: [13WMAZ](#)

March 22-24 at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Find registration information at [LAW Registration](#), along with a video of activities in store for GPP students. GPP and generous donors cover the costs of the weekend for GPP students; local programs need to provide chaperones and transportation to and from the event.

Registration is on a first come, first serve basis so register early!
Key dates:

- **Thursday January 31st**
Registration for students and chaperones closes
- **Thursday January 31st**
Paperwork for registered Adult Chaperones due to your GPP Regional Coordinator
- **Friday February 15th**
Paperwork for registered students due to your GPP Regional Coordinator

Thanks to Shaw Industries and Mr. & Mrs. Pat Williamson for their donations to support the LAW. If you’d like to contribute visit www.gpppartnership.org/donate

GPP Spotlight: Kristy Colbert at Chattooga High School

James H. “Sloppy” Floyd State Park is usually a quiet retreat near Summerville, Georgia, but a group of lively GPP kids are wading in the water to pick up trash. It’s a typical day of team building and community service lead by GPP School Coordinator Kristy Colbert. Ms. Colbert started a GPP WorkPrep program called the GPP Club with approximately 20 students at Chattooga High School. Along with community service, students learn the soft skills employers demand and plan for careers after high school.



Why did Kristy bring GPP to Chattooga High School? With the support of Chattooga County Schools Superintendent Jimmy Lenderman and Principal Jeff Martin, she wanted an opportunity for students to learn more than the required academic



classes. As Kristy says, “Many students in our county live in single parent families or with grandparents. They are looking for another adult in their lives to believe in them, care about their future and give them a hand when few others do. The GPP Club provides a caring place for young adults to learn, feel part of a group and form lasting friendships.”

Kristy Colbert

Ms. Colbert keeps the GPP Club busy with:

- College visits to UGA, the University of Tennessee and others in the Southeast. She also provides one-on-one help with applications.
- Leadership activities like volunteering at Summerville Railroad Days Festival, serving hot chocolate to parents and students with Principal Martin, and helping at an elementary school and senior center. The GPP Club has contributed 258 hours of community service with a goal of 500 hours this school year!
- Supporting the student produced GPP Club student newsletter, *The Update*.
- Enthusiastically bringing GPP students to the Leadership Adventure Weekend and Leadership Day at the Capital.

When asked what students liked best, Ms. Colbert said it’s often the undivided attention that the GPP coordinator can provide to students. In a NW Georgia county with less than 25,000 residents, an initiative like GPP is a welcome resource for a rural area.

Thank you, Ms. Colbert for your enthusiasm, compassion and determination to help Chattooga High School students get the tools they need to graduate from high school and enter college and careers.



Under the Gold Dome GPP Leadership Day at the Capitol

That’s where you’ll find GPP students on Leadership Day at the Capitol. Students will see where laws are made, visit with legislators and check out a college campus. Stay tuned for the details on the date and registration. If your business would like to sponsor this event, contact Executive Director Lori Heemann at lori@gpppartnership.org.

New Year Resolution Made Easy



Have you resolved to ditch dessert, take 10,000 steps or clean the garage? A resolution that is easy to keep is to support GPP! With GPP, students earn much needed wages, schools reduce dropout rates, and communities have one more economic development tool. You can support

GPP by:

1. **Visiting www.gppartnership.org/donate**
2. **Shopping Online.** When you shop, Amazon donates a portion of your purchase price to GPP. Go to www.smile.amazon.com to start today.
3. **Following GPP on Social Media.** Connect with the icons below or go to www.gppartnership.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@gppartnership.org.
4. **Texting GREATPROMISE (All CAPS) @22828** for GPP updates!

Learn how you can donate or volunteer.

How you can help!

Volunteer

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