



In this issue...

***Life Skills and the Talent Pipeline**

***Athens-Clarke County Leaders**

Plan for the Future

***Students Rate GPP**

***Famous Firsts**

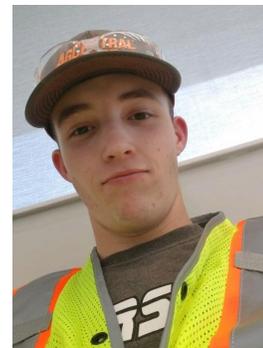
Get Involved



GPP and Shaw Industries Prepare the Talent Pipeline



It's a chaotic scene at the Shaw Plant 15 training room in Cartersville. Teens, like David Mahan at Shaw Plant T1 (right), in work clothes and fluorescent safety vests are scattered across the room, deep in conversation and intently focused on flip charts. While they are not on the manufacturing floor, the 24 students employed in five Shaw plants are on the clock learning Employability/Life Skills essential to the 21st century workforce. Employability/Life Skills training is one of the three essential components of GPP which also include work experience and mentoring.



According to Vickie Ellison, Shaw Plant 15 HR Corporate Training Manager, and Jeremy Jones, Plant 1 Department Manager, GPP students are a step ahead with the training they receive. "We invest in high school students because they are our future. A work ready talent pool is critical to our success, whether they work for Shaw after graduation, combine work and higher education or simply become tax-paying members of Georgia communities."

Vickie Ellison, at left with GPP students, uses the nationally recognized GeorgiaBEST curriculum developed by the Georgia Department of Labor with business input. GeorgiaBEST provides training on



11 Employability/Life Skills including attitude, punctuality, teamwork, communication, discipline, initiative, and more. GPP students and staff both love the interactive lessons and online options that Shaw provides. Students who pass all competencies earn a GeorgiaBEST certification that can be added to their resumes. For more information, go to www.georgiabest.com.

Says Jeremy Jones, "Shaw employees enjoy investing in students' lives, especially those who have had limited work experience and are new to a manufacturing environment. It's a win for the students and a win for Shaw when GPP and local high schools invest in the talent pipeline!"



Athens-Clarke County Business and Community Leaders Plan GPP Enhancements



Seventeen leaders from Athens-Clarke County met earlier this spring to strategize expansion of Great Promise Partnership in the community. Led by Athens-Clarke County Mayor Kelly Girtz and GPP Board Chair Steve Hollis of Power Partners, Inc., stakeholders included representatives from Caterpillar, Eaton Superchargers, the Athens Area Career Academy, and GPP.

Mayor Girtz outlined support of children and education as top priorities for Athens-Clarke County. He noted that the Athens community has made progress, increasing the high school graduation rate from about 50 percent 15 years ago to 80 percent now. To further advance strong outcomes for youth, the mayor plans to create a formal Youth Commission to advise the mayor and commission. He also pledged continued commitment to Great Promise Partnership in Athens-Clarke County.



As a result of the stakeholders' meeting, the group agreed to:

1. Create a **transportation taskforce** to help students get to all worksites, even those not on

- public transit.
- Facilitate a workplace coordinators meeting so they can share ideas and **brainstorm solutions to challenges**.
 - Improve the mentoring** for GPP students so it's consistent across all employers.
 - Work with Mayor Girtz to **leverage Athens-Clarke County Government resources** to serve more youth.



Powering Business Worldwide



**ATHENS
COMMUNITY
CAREER ACADEMY**

If you'd like to hold a community stakeholders meeting about GPP in your community, contact your GPP Regional Coordinator.

GPP Student Survey: First Look

We recently completed our annual mid-year GPP student survey led by Charles Martin (at left with Carrier Transicold workers.) One of the things we wanted to know was how students learned about the program. Here are student responses represented in a word cloud:



Most students (32.7%) learned about GPP from their teachers. Almost as many (28.8%) heard about the program from other students, about half of whom had participated in GPP. Another group (26.9%) said they heard about GPP from their school announcements. A smaller number were introduced to GPP by their principal (5.8%) or their counselors (3.8%).

GPP students were also asked to rate their GPP experiences. Results were

overwhelmingly positive. Over 98% agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed their jobs, thought they were learning valuable skills, and would recommend GPP to other students. More than 96% indicated that they were able to balance school and work.

Stay tuned for results of the year end evaluation later this year!

Famous Firsts

GPP students hold a variety of jobs in manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and more. Did you know about these 'famous first jobs'?

Warren Buffett's (CEO and Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway investment firm) first job was at his grandfather's grocery store, although he eventually worked his way up to a gig at J.C. Penney.



Entertainer **Beyonce Knowles** worked in her mother's salon, sweeping hair off the floor for tips to pay for a season pass to Six Flags.

New England Patriot Quarterback **Tom Brady** picked up garbage at construction sites.

President Lyndon Johnson shined shoes and herded goats, while **President Gerald Ford** was a park ranger at Yellowstone.

Entertainer **Whoopi Goldberg** was a mortuary cosmetologist.

Jeff Bezos (Chairman, CEO and President of Amazon) reflected on his first job as a McDonald's cashier saying, "You can learn responsibility in any job, if you take it seriously. You learn a lot as a teenager working at McDonald's. It's different from what you learn in school. Don't underestimate the value of that!"



Need More Info?

Lori Heemann, Executive Director, lori@gpppartnership.org, 404-694-0328

Heather Flury, Staff/Site Support Specialist, heather@gpppartnership.org, 404-229-1677

Regional Coordinators

Hilda Garrison, NE GA, hilda@gpppartnership.org, 706-362-7078

Devaki Gordon, SE GA, devaki@gpppartnership.org, 404-694-7142

Janet Queen, NW GA, janet@gpppartnership.org, 770-842-8153

Ann Shirra, Metro ATL/Middle GA, ann@gpppartnership.org, 614-530-0705

Marvin Stafford, SE GA, marvin@gpppartnership.org, 912-309-2831

Learn how you can donate or volunteer.

How you can help!

Volunteer

Donate



[WEBSITE](#) [GET INVOLVED](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#)



info@gppartnership.org



404-229-1677



P.O. Box 1647
Decatur, Georgia 30031

