Baldwin College & Career Academy

Work-Based Learning

Taking a Statewide Lead

Rob Deason (Class of 2014) shares his knowledge with students at Creekside Elementary about careers within Culinary Arts. He hopes to use his Marketing Career Pathway expertise as he pursues his dream of one day owning his own restaurant. Rob continues to work at Sonic where he was cross-trained for nearly all staff positions while he continues his education at Georgia Military College, majoring in Business.

Ms. Wallace, BCCA’s WBL Coordinator, was recently asked to serve as the East Central WBL Regional Co-Chair. This voluntary professional development opportunity represents a two-year commitment for Ms. Wallace to share her leadership with other East Central WBL Coordinators, as well as serve on the Georgia WBL Executive Board. The East Central region encompasses 27 counties, from Jasper to Telfair over to Lincoln and Burke counties. “Being selected by [her] peers to represent them is an honor and should not be taken lightly” says Dwayne Hobbs, WBL Program Director for Georgia. “[She] is a vital part of the mission to help students [become college and career ready] by improving the WBL programs in Georgia. She is a leader in our profession and I commend her for her leadership and dedication.”

Work Based Learning’s purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to connect what they learn in career and technical classes at Baldwin High School’s College and Career Academy with real-world applications in preparation for a smooth transition into our local workforce. Employers benefit from program participation by having an opportunity to play a key role in preparing their future workforce. Having a trained workforce can impact retention and recruitment costs for potential employers. Students benefit from program participation by developing workplace responsibilities, positive attitudes, and habits as they continue to explore career fields and tie relevance between school and work.

Ms. Wallace was also recently recognized at the annual summer Georgia Association of Career and Technical Educators for sharing an “Exemplary Employability Skills Lesson Plan” with her peers. Ms. Wallace challenges her WBL students each semester to coordinate a Career Day Event at one of the four Baldwin County elementary schools. WBL students create a display board highlighting a career title within their chosen Career Pathway. Using their display board, WBL students shared career-related information with students at Creekside Elementary and Eagle Ridge Elementary Schools during the last school year. They also developed a short career-related lesson to share with students so they would have a better understanding of career options as they continued their education. WBL students that participated in the Career Day event more than once were further challenged to select and read a children’s story to students, tying the story message to an employability trait needed to be developed for future careers. This year students will travel to Blandy Hills and Midway Elementary Schools.

For more information regarding Baldwin High School’s College and Career Academy WBL program, contact Laurie Wallace, LWallace@baldwin.k12.ga.us or 478.453.6429 Ext. 356.