



Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program—H.E.L.P. is Here

By Irene Munn, Regional Career Pathway Coordinator, and Melissa Griffin, Executive Director of Heartland, a Division of Foothills

The Butts Heartland site just celebrated the successful conclusion of the **Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program apprenticeship**. Five Heartland students are finalizing their Business and Technology coursework that is the foundation of HELP and all 5 students experienced an excellent paid opportunity working with small businesses in Butts County.

This program was developed in partnership with local employers who need students interested in business, marketing, technology programs, customer service and other entrepreneurial opportunities. Students received CTAE credit for the Introduction to Business and Technology and Work-Based Learning credits for their internship. In addition to instruction that included Microsoft office products, introduction to accounting and business along with a focus on social media, Heartland Work-Based Learning and Business and Technology instructor Randall Wilder assisted students with understanding important employability skills—all needed for their successful apprenticeship interviews and experience.

Pictured right: Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program students celebrate the conclusion of a five-week apprenticeship with a celebration dinner. Celebrating with the students were mentor Frankie Willis, Intro to Business and WBL instructor Randall Wilder, Debbie Hammond Heartland Regional Coordinator for Student Services, and Melissa Griffin, Executive Director for Heartland-A Division of Foothills Education Charter High School.



Our partner employers and their student interns were:

The Village at Indian Springs - Brittney Garnto and Daltyn Wadsworth

The Rivers Ranch - Briana Constantin

Construction Materials Management - Tanner Padgett (featured next page)

Student - Rahmia Gordan - completed class but already works full time so he did not participate in the apprenticeship.

Message from the Superintendent

We are so excited to share the news about the Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program, part of Foothills' strong and growing commitment to work-based learning and to developing real-world employment skills and credentials for our students. And kudos to Tanner Padgett for his terrific work and his insightful comments in this month's HELP Student Spotlight.

The ingredients for success at Foothills can be summarized by "the 3 P's" - People, Programs, and Partnerships—as exemplified by HELP. These kinds of learning opportunities for our students could not happen without the visionary leadership of people like Irene Munn, Melissa Griffin, Foothills site directors and teachers, and community/business leaders like Frankie Willis. And, most important, we need and appreciate the willingness of students to do the hard work and to envision new paths of learning for themselves.

—*Sherrie*

In This Issue

- Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program (HELP)
- Message from the Superintendent
- Student Highlight: Tanner Padgett

H.E.L.P., continued

HELP Employer Spotlight: Frankie Willis, Owner, The Village at Indian Springs

Frankie was the driving force for the HELP program. As a longtime supporter of students and the Butts County School system, Heartland went to Frankie to make sure she knew about Heartland students and how we could partner to serve her workforce's needs. As an owner of Trucks, Inc., we thought we would be recruiting students for that industry. But Frankie had a better idea! She wanted to help our students learn the business and marketing side of hospitality and expose them to employment opportunities at The Village at Indian Springs. This desire created the Heartland HELP program.

Quote from Frankie: "As a business owner and in the current environment where workers are just in massive short supply, it's important to help youth learn a work ethic. The two interns I had felt the biggest part of being an "entrepreneur" was that you deal with many changing issues every day, and often every hour of the day. It's always a pleasure to see kids learning and becoming more responsible and employable. We at The Village at Indian Springs were pleased to be asked to participate."

Heartland can't thank Frankie Willis enough for her support for our students!

HELP Student Spotlight: Tanner Padgett



Tanner Padgett accepted a great intern opportunity with Construction Materials Management in Jackson, GA. This company specializes in Geotechnical Engineering and Evaluations, Environmental Phase I and II Site Studies, Materials Testing of Concrete, Asphalt, Aggregate, RTT and Soil, Hot Mix Asphalt Design of Superpave, Marshall and P401, On-Site Septic Surveys and System Design, Materials Mix Designs of Roller Compacted Concrete and Pavement Reclamation, NPDES/Stormwater Monitoring and Inspections. They provided Tanner with the opportunity to learn about extractions of concrete and asphalt for testing purposes as well as training in welding and the introduction to site preparation, pavement reclamation, and stormwater monitoring.

Tanner notes that "The Heartland Entrepreneurial Leaders Program was something new to me and the Foothills School environment. I was reluctant as to how beneficial the program was going to be for me at first, but I am thankful that it pointed me in the direction of the job that I was placed in with Construction Materials Services, Inc. because not only do I really love my job, but also I am allowed to learn and perform tasks such as welding. And, I want to thank the Foothills Education High School Administrators and Teachers for starting the H.E.L.P program and the opportunity it provides for students like myself."



Foothills Education Charter
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The Foothills Vision

Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.