

## Northern Neck Technical Center Career Fair

Since 1979 the Northern Neck Technical Center in Warsaw has been preparing local teens for the world of work. On Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, a Career Fair introduced current students to local employers and colleges to help them plan for their futures. There are 9 vocational training programs at the Tech Center – Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Carpentry, Computer Maintenance Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electricity, Marine Trades Technology, Masonry, and Nurse Aide – as well as a GED preparation program and an alternative school. The students are mostly juniors and seniors from high schools in the 5 nearby counties – Colonial Beach, Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Rappahannock, and Washington & Lee.

The Career Fair consisted of classroom presentations by program-specific representatives, general informational tables grouped in the Commons, and workshops. Workshop topics were “How to land a job” (by Laurel Taylor of the VA Employment Commission), “How to start your own business” (by Chris Powers of The Clay Bakery), and a panel made up of employers willing to share career advice and answer questions. A highlight of the event was the participation of several Tech Center graduates – Beau Morris, owner of Collision One, Julianna Schuman of Royal Cutts, Laurie Loving with the Tappahannock Rescue Squad, and Deneisha Pollard representing Hair Cuttery – who returned to share their own career stories.

Counselor Deborah Hughes, the coordinator of the Fair, would like to thank the following employers and organizations who participated in this very successful event: Bank of Lancaster, Bay Aging, Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck, The Clay Bakery, Collision One, Colonial Beach Dragway, Connemara Construction, salon owner Debbie Schulz, Hair Cuttery, chef/instructor Hatley Bright from RCC, Haynesville Correctional Center, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Lowe’s, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Mid-Atlantic Home Health Care, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Apprenticeship School, Omega Protein, Rappahannock General Hospital, Regent Point Marina, Richmond County Sheriff’s Department, Royall Cutts Salon, Tappahannock/Essex Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army National Guard, VEC, *WCVE* public radio Technical Director Sam Straus, Warsaw Health Care Center, Warsaw Police Department, and Yankee Point Sailboat Marina. Thanks also goes to James Antonick, Tech Prep Coordinator at RCC, for his financial support.

Also in attendance were representatives from the following colleges: Art Institute of VA Beach, ATI, Culinary Institute of VA, ECPI, Fortis College, ITT Tech, Lincoln Technical Institute, Medical Careers Institute, NADC, Old Dominion University, Rappahannock Community College, and Stratford University.

As you can tell from the photos, the students had a great time at the Career Fair. Principal Randy Long and Assistant Principal/photographer Dave Ferguson were both highly impressed with the learning and networking that were accomplished at the event.

If you are interested in participating in next year's event, please call the Tech Center at 333-4940.