



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Halifax County, NC – September 21, 2022
HCS Students Receive Stackable Credentials

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Halifax County Schools (HCS) had 10 scholars complete the Clean Energy Youth Apprenticeship (CEYA). This is the second year of the Youth Solar Energy Apprenticeship. Halifax County Schools had the opportunity to pilot the program in 2021, which expanded to other surrounding districts this year.

The NC Clean Energy Youth Apprenticeship program for students was launched through a partnership with the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE), the Office of the Governor, NC A&T State University, and the State Energy Office, Halifax County Schools, and Halifax Community College. CEYA, a pre-apprenticeship program for high school students, is part of a larger initiative, STEPS for Growth, to train NC's clean energy workforce. Partners include NCBCE, NC A&T University, NC State, the State Energy Office, Halifax Community College, and local training partners.

Superintendent Dr. Cunningham states, "This initiative is an example of what partnerships can do. When we concentrate on a child's holistic needs, everyone benefits. The winning combination of certification plus a paid internship increases our students' chances. This approach has increased student engagement and family involvement, which is a key component of student success."



Dr. LaVonne McClain, Director of Secondary Education & CTE adds, "The students have acquired the skills most sought after by employers - the ability to effectively communicate and think critically. They have stackable credentials that will make them marketable right out of high school."

The program provided rising high school juniors and seniors a summer work-based learning experience that combined 96 hours of classroom instruction with 80 hours of paid on-the-job training. Students were taught by faculty at Halifax Community College and received five industry-valued certifications (CCR Work keys Bronze Level, OSHA 10, Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Level, Working Smart, and Pre-Apprenticeship) after completing the program.

The following HCS students completed the apprenticeship: Isaiah Cain, Michaela Slayton, Issac Evans, Octavia Richardson, Zeonnta Alston, Da'Mari Powell, Jaden Russell, Shacori Scott, Tyrick Lynch, and Trinity Lynch.