Overview of the Anson County School District YCC Program

For four years, the Anson High Youth Career Connect program has led students through challenging study in computer information systems, engineering, agriculture, and biomedical and medical sciences. In June 2018, YCC STEM Academy graduated its first class of 71 students with:

- high school diplomas;
- 12-18 technical course credits with one or two certificate credentials from South Piedmont Community College;
- and up to 40 hours of transferable college credit good at any University of North Carolina system school.

With STEM careers acknowledged as the most essential and highest paying careers of today and the future, Anson County Schools have focused on STEM topics at every level, especially at AHS, our only comprehensive high school. Because of our strong STEM focus and our partnership with local community college South Piedmont Community College, 54 of the YCC students earned one or more community college certifications in the areas of Information Technology Information Systems, Information Technology Web Administration, Medical Assisting II & III, Mechatronics Engineering, and Agribusiness.

Program Highlight

During the four years of YCC at AHS, we have made every attempt to provide our students with education, opportunities, and experiences that support our career pathways and prepare our pupils for college, careers, and life. Seventy-one seniors in the YCC STEM Academy at AHS have worked tirelessly to earn academic and technical credits, credentials, employability skills, and career experience during their high school years.

During Spring break the students had the opportunity to see their career potential in real-world settings in Washington, D.C. The trip proved to be a profound experience and a fitting culmination of their efforts and achievements in the program. The three days of non-stop learning opportunities highlighted YCC STEM careers, American history, and the integration of career majors into a greater context as students visited both governmental and historical sites.
Taking in the memorials honoring Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Lincoln as well as Arlington National Cemetery and the war memorials, students viewed the nation’s history from a new perspective; and tours of the National Air & Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol, along with a White House photo stop, exposed them to a wide array of possible career choices.

In the words of Mrs. Deborah Davis, YCC Program Director and System Secondary Administrator:
"Traveling to Washington, D.C., led students to a greater understanding of why our country has accomplished what it has, and why every American’s career choice matters to our collective progress. Those were our goals for the trip, and students agree that we accomplished them. These students graduated with a clearer understanding of why what they choose to do with the rest of their lives matters – for them as individuals and for the future of America."

Success Story
Our partnership with the HOLLA organization allowed YCC at AHS to achieve our mentoring goal as outlined in the grant established by DOL/ETA. It enabled us to provide our students with individual, small-group, and whole-group mentoring experiences, and it exposed our students to community leaders and career-focused speakers, all of which aligned with our YCC pathways. Through HOLLA, the YCC at AHS program was also featured on national radio shows and highlighted as a pioneer in the STEM/CTE field ... “The Power of a Pathway and how it changes the experience of high school.”

Community Impact
The YCC at AHS program not only positively changed the culture of our only comprehensive high school in Anson County, it also successfully changed the perception of our students among community and local businesses and industries. Bringing the attention of the community to the value of our high-performing youth, YCC students were among the most honored and accomplished of the 2017-18 school year. This year’s valedictorian and salutatorian were YCC students. And, of the 25 honor graduates at Anson High School:

- 23 were YCC students;
- 19 of the 20 junior marshals were YCC students;
- and YCC senior students earned over $54,000 in local scholarship monies.

The future of our community is dependent upon how we touch the minds, souls, and hearts of our young people, and for this, the YCC at AHS program is our beacon of hope.

YCC at Anson High School – Anson County School District
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