Overview of the Youth Empowerment for Success (YES) YCC Program

The Youth Empowerment for Success (YES) Program was created to give students opportunities and skills that will help them be successful after high school graduation. Students complete all requirements for obtaining a high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credit. Program curriculum includes dual-enrollment courses in academics as well as occupational classes in healthcare, information technology, and welding.

The program also offers an assortment of ways for students to explore college and career interests outside of the traditional classroom.

- Putnam County has partnered with colleges, community groups, and businesses to ensure relevant experiences and instill transferrable skills.
- Students are exposed to the world of work through career fairs and employer site visits and receive on-the-job training during internships and job shadowing.
- They hear from guest speakers in high-demand industries, participate in mentorships, and work on community service learning projects.

Students can also research institutions of higher education through recruitment visits, college fairs, and campus tours. Throughout, they are learning the soft skills necessary to advance in postsecondary education and work life. The YES Program steers students toward success by making them college- and career-ready.

Program Highlight

To date, YES program students have earned 8,234 college credits, and on average, YES students graduate from Putnam County High School with 26 college credits. In total, YES Program students have accumulated 7 Associate Degrees, 20 Technical College Diplomas, and 357 Technical Certificates of Credit.

This demonstrates the major benefit of dual-credit options to students in rural areas like ours – access to early college credits and to higher education in general. Among the YES students who participated in dual-enrollment courses:
The percentage of students enrolling in postsecondary institutions after high school has increased.

The time it takes students to complete postsecondary degrees has significantly decreased.

Postsecondary success is higher because students have been familiarized with such aspects of college life as financial aid, communicating with professors, managing course loads, intellectual rigor, acquiring textbooks, and more.

Success Story
Putnam County High School and YES Program student Dylan Powers (Class of 2018), completed all three health science pathways offered through the YES program. He has earned 26 healthcare-related college credits, 3 Technical College Certificates (TCCs), and has obtained industry credentials as a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).

Dylan was able to practically apply his knowledge and skills by completing 60 clinical internship hours and more than 700 job-shadowing hours at local nursing homes and hospitals. In addition to completing the requirements for high school graduation, Dylan traveled three times per week after school to CGTC’s Macon Campus seeking his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Technical College Certificate (TCC).

Dylan is now attending Georgia College and State University (GCSU) majoring in Nursing, with the hope of becoming a flight nurse. Dylan attests that the opportunities made available to him through YES have helped him to further develop his passion for healthcare and remain steadfast in his pursuit of a career in emergency medicine.

Community Impact
As a locally-designed initiative, YES recognizes that local, regional, and statewide employers need qualified job candidates and are dedicated to developing local talent. All college and employer partners have been involved in the program since its conceptualization. They have worked together to identify industries and job sectors where employment opportunities are greatest and where skilled labor is in short supply.

Employer partners are involved, through the Advisory Board, in developing a sustainable industry-focused program curriculum. Moreover, they help create strong pathways for YES students by providing work-based learning opportunities including job shadowing, internships, career fairs, career exploration workshops, guest speaking engagements, community service learning projects, and other work-related opportunities.

The strength and success of YES has communicated a clear message to the local community that a viable, valuable, and sustainable talent pipeline can stem directly from our high school.

Youth Empowerment for Success (YES) Program
Contact: Katherine Reid – YES Program Manager, 706-485-9971, katherine_reid@putnam.k12.ga.us
http://pchs2.putnam.schooldesk.net/About-PCHS/YES-Program
@pchsyes
#pchsyes