April 2021

The LCPS Business Partnerships Network currently includes 800+ organizations from the public and private sectors. The LCPS Business Partnership Network collaborates with the Loudoun School-Business Partnership Executive Council, which seeks to be a progressive leader in establishing effective and creative partnerships.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April is:
- National Financial Literacy Month
- National internship Awareness Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Volunteer Month
- Record and Information Management Month
- World Landscape Architecture Month

Click here for more information.

- April 11 - National Burrito Day
- April 4 - National Education and Sharing Day
- April 12 - National Employee Benefits Day
- April 15 - National Tax Day
- April 15 - School-Business Partnership Executive Council Meeting
- April 22 - National Administrative Professionals’ Day
- April 30 - National Hairstylist Appreciation Day

Click here for more information.

SEEKING ADVISORY MEMBERS

Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC)

The new Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) is seeking members. The committee will be composed of 21 members of the public, including students, teachers, parents and representatives from business, industry, and labor. The CTEAC will meet monthly during the school year to discuss the planning, implementing, and assessing of career and technical education programs.

The functions of the CTEAC will be as follows:
- Advise LCPS of needs in career and technical education;
- Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of career and technical education students;
- Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding CTE to the division superintendent for transmission to the school board;
- Review the policies and procedures for the provision of career and technical education and related services; and
- Participate in the review of the Perkins V plan, Federal Program Monitoring, and Civil Rights Review.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please complete the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee [CTEAC] Interest Form by April 15, 2021. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Lhe Smith, Supervisor of Career and Technical Education at lhe.smith@lcps.org.

SEEKING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Community Connections, School Business-Partnership Council

The Loudoun School-Business Partnership Executive Council was founded in 1990 by the citizens of Loudoun County as a not-for-profit. The mission is “to provide the leadership to promote the development and success of partnerships between the Loudoun County Public Schools and businesses to ensure that the students are prepared to contribute successfully to the ever-changing business and community environments.” The council is composed of corporate executives, business professionals, government agency representatives, and non-profit leaders.

The three focus areas of the Executive Council are:
- Deeper Learning
- Recognition/Promotion
- Career/College Readiness

Committees for member participation are related to these focus areas. If interested in joining for the 2021-2022 School Year, please complete the interest form for the membership committee to review.

MORE INFORMATION

lcps.org/LCPSPartner

LCSPartner@lcps.org

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CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CAREER CLUSTER - BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

Business Management and Administration careers use your organizational and leadership skills to prepare for careers where you plan, direct, and evaluate operations to run a successful business. There are a variety of career opportunities available including hiring staff, analyzing data, and launching your own start-up. This career cluster employs the largest number of workers in Virginia. *VDOE*

This career cluster includes the following career pathways:
- Administrative Support
- Business Information Management
- General Management
- Human Resources Management
- Operations Management

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Thomas, Manager of Security Operations Center, has built and lead the Security Operations Center at Verizon Media. His teams perform cybersecurity operations, such as monitoring, investigating, and remediating any malicious activity protecting their employees and customers at Verizon Media. He also hosts a podcast called “Positively Blue Team” as he worked with Mrs. Rudd’s Cybersecurity classes at Heritage High School. Shawn has discussed the many opportunities in the cybersecurity field and brings real-world experiences to the classroom.

Students leave the discussion inspired to pursue a career in Cybersecurity! Shawn shares, “I am so pleased with this partnership, getting the opportunity to give back to my community and help inspire and teach the next set of cyber defenders is one of my greatest honors.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Noor Qadir, a senior student at Heritage High School, is currently enrolled in Introduction to Cybersecurity. Noor shares her future career goals. “Since middle school, I developed an interest in the fields of technology and cybersecurity. I took Computer Information Systems, Advanced Computer Information Systems, and am currently taking Introduction to Cybersecurity. By taking these classes, I developed many skills related to cybersecurity and computer systems. I was attracted to this field, which is why I plan on pursuing an A.S. Engineering degree at Northern Virginia Community College, then a B.S. degree in Cybersecurity Engineering at George Mason University and an M.S. degree in Cyber Law. I chose this field because I want to grow and learn more about the unique and new technologies that are being made day by day and how to protect them and the users. In this day and age, technology and cybersecurity are growing on a daily basis, which is why I want to be a part of a community that can make the online world a safer place.”

CTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Cathy Rudd is a career switcher who has worked at Heritage High School for 18 years. Cathy also is a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) co-adviser and Positive Experiences in Educational Relationships (PEER) sponsor. Prior to teaching, she worked in software development and worked in a medical lab right out of college. Cathy has a Bachelor of Science degree (Biology) from George Mason University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Shenandoah University. Cathy enjoys teaching all the business and technology courses but really enjoys the cybersecurity classes. Her background in analyzing code and blood specimen gives her the insight needed for cybersecurity skills which she teaches to her students. She also impresses upon her students the value of a good work ethic in today’s education and workplace. Her favorite part about being a teacher is helping students learn skills that will benefit them in the workforce, but more importantly, she loves making a connection with her students.

FUN FACT

Loudoun County Public Schools offers the following Business Management and Administration courses:
- Accounting
- Advanced Computer Information Systems
- Computer Information Systems
- Design, Multimedia and Web Technologies

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual Professional Development Conferences
- July 6 - 18, 2021 Virginia Health and Medical Sciences Educators Association
- July 18 - 22, 2021 Virginia Association for Agricultural Education
- July 19 - 22, 2021 Virginia Business Education Association
- July 19 - 22, 2021 Virginia Association for Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences
- July 19 - 23, 2021 Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association
- July 26 - 29, 2021 Virginia Association of Marketing Educators
- July 27, 2021 Virginia Association of Trade & Industrial Educators

*2021 information is not currently available.

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We are so excited to welcome JT Taylor back to LCPS today! We look forward to hearing his session, “A Different Type of Teacher: Teaching with Purpose and Overcoming Burnout.” Thank you @purposepushers! #LCPSPartner
CAREER CONVERSATIONS
Several Ashburn cluster high schools piloted a new program this year, "Career Conversations." Career Conversations highlight local business and career paths for students. During the conversations, students were able to learn through roundtable discussions comprised of business owners and professional staff. Thank you to the following local companies for their participation: Inova, Projet Aviation, HHMI Janelia Research Campus, The Fitness Equation, Structural Repair and Renovation, Loudoun Water, Equinix, and Rosendin Electric. Venkat Amanthani, a 10th grade student at Independence High School, noticed some issues among all employers: 1) a desire for employees to be skilled in time management, 2) teamwork, 3) responsibility, 4) exhibition of social skills, and 5) specific technical capabilities. To participate in future Career Conversations please contact Grant Schafer at Grant.Schafer@lcps.org.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
Loudoun Environmental Education Alliance (LEEA) will be hosting its second annual Loudoun Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS). The showcase is an opportunity for K-12 students to create videos highlighting their problem-solving skills related to real-world environmental issues. The event is co-hosted by LEEA and the Northwest Virginia Regional GREENetwork. The inaugural year included 130 student exhibitors and 250 visitors! This year's event will take place virtually from April 19-25, 2021. For more information about this opportunity, click here to read the LCPS new release.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Charlotte Waxvik is a junior at Independence High School this year. Recently, she was interested in seeking employment locally at Top Golf. She started seeking examples of resumes to guide her own resume writing and decided on a Word format for her resume template. After writing her resume and applying for the job, Charlotte shares, "My resume helped me stand out due to my experience having specific goals related to working with multiple teams such as volleyball and as the stage manager for the school musical. This was appealing to Top Golf because one of their core values is teamwork."

SBP COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT
Bob Bisson is the Chair of the School-Business Partnership Executive Council. He began his time with the Council in 2017 and served as Vice Chair in 2019. Bob is the Vice President Electric System Development at Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC). NOVEC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative headquartered in Manassas, VA. NOVEC sells and distributes electric energy to approximately 176,000 customers located in parts of Loudoun, Clarke, Prince William, Fairfax, Fauquier and Stafford counties. Approximately 41,000 residences and businesses in Loudoun County are served by NOVEC.
**Computer Science**

**Microsoft TEALS Program Volunteers**

For the past several years, the Microsoft TEALS Program has placed professionals from the technology industry into Loudoun County high schools to work with Loudoun’s Computer Science teachers. TEALS volunteers drive increased enrollment and excitement, bringing real industry experience into the classroom. A webinar was held on March 24, which provided an overview of the TEALS Program and the role of TEALS volunteers in LCPS Computer Science classrooms. To learn more about the TEALS Program and how you can become involved, click [here](#).

**Partner Spotlight**

Global Inheritance is local non-profit in Loudoun County. Global Inheritance’s mission is to "help underserved high school females reach their potential through STEM education, internships, and leadership development training." Global Inheritance is offering a Leading Ladies Initiative 2021 Summer Cohort between June 21 - July 2, 2021. The Computer Science team is excited for the partnership with Global Inheritance.

**Student Spotlight**

Vy Dinh, a senior at Stone Bridge High School, explains why she is pursing a career in computer science. "I chose to pursue computer science because I’ve always been interested in the workings behind our favorite games and websites. Growing up playing video games and being surrounded by technology, it’s always intrigued me. When I first started computer science I was intrigued by all the math and logic — it pushed me to learn more. I’m excited to see what else I’ll learn. (I recently got accepted to both UVA and Virginia tech for computer science!) and how I’ll improve!"

**CS Staff Spotlight**

Linda Bulk teaches AP Computer Science and Computer Math at Stone Bridge High School. Her degree was in Mechanical Engineering and has worked in the Aerospace field for 10 years. After taking some time off to raise a family, she realized she wanted to teach at the high school level. When an opportunity arose to teach Computer Science, she was happy to take it. Linda shares, "I love introducing computer science to my students and inspiring them to pursue this field that I know will provide a wonderful career for them."

**Fun Fact**

Did you know that Ashburn is considered by some Data Center professionals as the Data Center Capital of the World?

Click [here](#) to learn more about Data Centers in Loudoun County.
PROJECT BASED LEARNING
Waxpool Elementary / 1st Grade

Waxpool Elementary School celebrated its Second Annual GLOW Day on Thursday, March 11, 2021. This new school holiday was created by the first-grade students and is becoming an annual tradition. Through this project-based learning experience designed by the first-grade teachers, the students answered the driving question, "How can W.E. be a great leader of Waxpool?" The students learned about character traits of leaders and famous leaders from history. The students also identified classmates that would make good leaders and created a first-grade council that will meet and discuss topics relevant to first grade.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT
Sterling Middle School / Staff & Interpreters

Sterling Middle School has been focusing on students who have been struggling throughout distance learning but who were also making tangible gains in their learning. They wanted to celebrate these gains with students and their families.

Some examples of accomplishments they noted are:
- submitting work on time;
- participating in the chat; or even
- attending class

Staff contacted multiple families to have engaging conversations that are sometimes difficult over email. They named the differences and praised the students for their positive efforts that were being made. It’s sometimes more meaningful for students to hear the excitement in their parent’s and teacher’s voices, which really helps to bridge the gap between home and school. Sterling Middle School is working to support the students, so making positive connections helps everyone to feel more empowered.

VIRGINIA’S 5 C’S
Creators generate new ideas and/or build on existing ones by asking questions, thinking flexibly, and learning from experimentation, which leads to innovative approaches and solutions to authentic challenging problems. Creativity empowers learners to express one’s self, take risks, generate and connect ideas in order to have a lasting impact on society.

Creator Criteria:
- Generate Ideas
- Evaluate Ideas
- Engage in the Process
- Design Solution or Product
- Feedback, Reflection, and Revision

TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEWSLETTER
EMAIL LCPSPARTNER@LCPS.ORG.
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The LCPS Business Partnerships Network is supported by the following offices within the Department of Instruction. Click on Career and Technical Education, Community Connections, or Computer Science to learn more.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**
Work-Based Learning

**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**
Job for a Day, School Business Partnership Executive Council

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**
Experiential Learning

To get involved, click below to complete the brief **BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS NETWORK PLACEMENT SURVEY** to connect with the appropriate LCPS point of contact!
For additional information please email LCPSPartner@lcps.org