School-Business Partnership Executive Council Honors Its Leaders

September/October 2019

The School-Business Partnership Executive Council was organized in 1990 to promote partnerships in support of the public schools of Loudoun County. Since then, the organization has met regularly under strong leadership to bring community and business partners together with the school system. This public meeting is every third Thursday of the month at the LCPS Administration Building.

This fall, leadership of the council transitioned with members moving into new positions. Moving forward this year, Tony Stafford, of Ford’s Fish Shack, will serve as Chair. Bob Bisson, of NOVEC, will serve as Vice-Chair. Therese Baker, of ABBTECH, will remain as the secretary. Neil Slevin, Director of Teaching & Learning, presented the outgoing Chairwoman, Donna Fortier, with an award to show appreciation for all of her hard work and continued dedication to the council.
Stone Hill Connects

Middle School invites in businesses to plan experiences for students.

Teachers at Stone Hill Middle School took a different approach to planning at the beginning of this school year. Each CLT, or Collaborative Learning Team, in the building brainstormed business or community partners that they would invite in to support a learning experience for their students.

On October 28th, several business partners were able to come into the school and join the teachers in planning out the experiences. Partners like Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, Loudoun United Soccer, Loudoun Water and many more engaged in a workshop to tie instruction with real world experiences.

“The conversations that occurred between staff and community members were meaningful, purposeful, and student-centered. We are excited about these authentic learning opportunities that our students will be engaged in throughout the school year,” says Principal Katie Clark of Stone Hill Middle School.

Heritage HS

P R I D E I N O U R C O M M U N I T Y

Heritage HS is changing up the Senior experience this year and offering students the opportunity to shadow business partners and learn more about their careers.

This year, Heritage launched the PIOC or "Pride in our Community" program with the intention of allowing Seniors to choose an area of interest, connect with a business partner, learn more about what they do and experience the ins and outs of the business. To kick off this program, Steve Hummer, a teacher at Heritage, organized a Community Expo.

The Expo consisted of several businesses coming in with information about what they do and a willingness to open their doors to students. Hundreds of students rotated through the expo asking questions, making contacts, networking and learning. The program hopes to give Seniors a chance to learn about various careers in our area during the school year. Teachers at Heritage serve as advisors for the Seniors involved. They check in with them, reflect on the experiences, and guide them to make decisions about their future endeavors.
Farmwell Station MS Contacts ISS

October 2019: Students from Farmwell, Discovery, Cedar Lane and Broad Run experienced a Ham Radio contact with the International Space Station

As the result of a proposal to ARISS last year, students were able to make radio contact with the International Space Station and ask questions to an astronaut. ARISS, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, coordinated the use of the necessary equipment and personnel to make the contact successful. The conversation with the astronaut was limited to the time that the ISS, International Space Station, passed over our area.

Overview of the event from Principal, Sherryl Loya: "Students at Farmwell Station Middle School had an amazing experience! They were able to talk with Dr. Drew Morgan, who was on board the International Space Station, via Ham Radio. Students were able to ask questions about space science and learn about what it’s like to live in space.

Bryce Hilliard (pictured left), Broad Run High School student CEO of Space Dreamers, brought this opportunity to his teachers in the fall of 2018. With the assistance of teachers Amy Morrison, Sandy Chalke, and Carol Wenger, Farmwell Station Middle school submitted an application and was accepted by the ARISS organization to make direct contact with the ISS via amateur radio. This event was made possible by the support and cooperation of ARISS organization, Loudoun Amateur Radio Group (LARG). We also received community support from The Aerospace Corporation and the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Department. The event was live-streamed to our partnering schools and the public."

Upcoming Opportunity

The LCPS Counseling Office is seeking Table Sponsors for their 2nd Annual Career and Apprenticeship Fair

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
6:00-8:00pm
at the Academies of Loudoun

There are 100 spaces available for businesses to sign up. The goal is to have representation from each of the 16 career clusters.

Questions? Please contact Theresa Kurzeja at Theresa.Kurzeja@lcps.org or (571)252-1226

To Apply: CLICK HERE
Digital Promise Visit - Community Bus Tour

On October 17, 2019, members of the Digital Promise group held their annual convening in our area, with tours of Loudoun County’s schools as part of the agenda. The bus tours consisted of the following topics: Computer Science, Project-Based Learning, Technology and Community Connections.

Each tour group visited three sites including the Academies of Loudoun. Participants chose which bus based on their interests. The Community Connections office was honored to feature Trailside Middle School, Brambleton Middle School and the Academies of Loudoun on their tour.

Students and administrators at each of the school sites gave tours of the buildings, talked about the way that they involve community partners, and answered questions from participants. Among the highlights of the day was the student group from Brambleton Middle School that partnered with Apple to become iJournalists. The iJournalists took video, conducted interviews of participants, and answered questions during the tour. The group served as yet another example of how business partners are so valuable to instruction.

The message of the day from the Community Connections tour bus, led by Dr. Ashley Ellis and Jennifer Miller, was that we are fortunate to have so many supportive businesses in our area and we are constantly looking for new ways to get them involved with our schools.

How can YOU be more involved?

SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

To learn more about Partnerships out in the field: http://bit.ly/2PhYr34

To register your business or organization: Click Here

Recognize a partnership by tagging us and following us on Twitter: @CommunityLcps

Logo designed by MATA, Academies of Loudoun student, Paravi Das.