



CTSOs Make an Impact: "Who Says You Can't be Smart and an Ag Kid with Dirty Hands all at the Same Time"-Caleb Richardson U.S Presidential Scholar from Perquimans County

According to the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, students who participate in Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement, career self-efficacy and employability skills than other students. No one in our state demonstrates these raised aspirations better than recent Perquimans County High School graduate Caleb Richardson. Caleb was among 161 students in the nation selected this year out of about 4,000 nominees and one of only 20 to represent Career Technical Education through the Presidential Scholars program. According to <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html>:

"The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students."

Caleb credits his agriculture teacher at Perquimans County High School Angel White, for inspiring him and encouraging him to pursue his passion. Richardson began raising and showing animals when he was young and at age 17, he is part owner of *Whistlin' Pines Farms* where he maintains day-to-day operations and 30 head of the cattle on the farm. Richardson, who graduated as an honors student from Perquimans High in the spring, says FFA has given him the opportunity to learn a great deal about leadership and provided him with the ability to travel to attend meetings and state and national conventions. Richardson also said he greatly appreciates the support of Jared Harrell, a livestock specialist with the Perquimans County office of the NC Cooperative Extension Service. "He's always been a mentor to me," Richardson said of Harrell.

Melissa Fields, the principal at PCHS, said at an awards ceremony that, "Joseph Caleb Richardson is an asset to our school and community, and I am confident that he will be highly successful in his future. He is a hard-working and dedicated individual who goes above and beyond in everything he does." His Ag teacher and FFA Advisor Angel White agrees that Richardson is special. "I am ecstatic that Caleb was recognized for his hard work and determination," White said. "It is a well-deserved honor. At 17 years old, Caleb has positively impacted the lives of many people around him, myself included. He has taken advantage of the opportunities provided to him through our school and community organizations and utilized them to improve not only himself, but the lives of his peers and those in his community. He is a positive role model for other students in the classroom, in the FFA, and in 4-H. Earning this recognition also helps other students see that there really is no limit to what you can achieve if you are willing to put in the time and effort."

While Caleb has aspirations to follow in the steps of one of his mentors as he enters NC State University this fall with a goal of training to become an extension agent, he has also inspired those he mentored as an honor student at Perquimans County High School, a National Presidential Scholar, and a highly successful Career Technical Student Organization member.

Many thanks to Peter Williams, News Editor Perquimans Weekly and Jill Cohen, Perquimans County Schools Director of Career Technical Education for the information and quotes included in this article.

The CTE Directors Internship Program is Relevant Professional Development and Prepares its Graduates for Leadership in Career Technical Education

There are many leadership opportunities in education and a variety of paths to gain the knowledge and experience to prepare educators for the various roles. Uniquely, Career Technical Education provides new and aspiring directors with a very valuable internship experience that is comprehensive and extremely relevant. Not only do participants gain knowledge and ideas, they get to meet and collaborate with a cohort of colleagues, building lasting relationships and resources through the internship experience. As is noted in this article, there are many new CTE directors across our state and they are all prepared to lead Career Technical Education Programs through the internship program.

The Department of Public Instruction, with support from the North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators Division (NCACTEA), sponsors this 80-hour CTE Administrative Internship Program.

Each intern must complete a needs assessment based upon the CTE Administrators' Job Description and then develop an Internship Plan. Interns are then assigned mentors to assist them with the Internship Plan activities. The course combines face to face and online sessions covering: Fiscal and Policy Guide (F&PG), Local Planning System (LPS), Curriculum and Instruction, Partnership, and Licensure.

Last year, there were thirty-four CTE professionals enrolled in the internship program and thirty graduates. This year thirty-five new or aspiring directors are enrolled with 9 returning to make up missed sessions. The photograph below shows some of the 2016-2017 graduates from the central and southwest regions along with their mentors and regional coordinators.



The new CTE Directors across our state include from the Northeast: Ann Harrell, Gates County; Linda Justus, Bertie County; Alfreda Smith, Halifax County; and Tina Hinson, Weldon City. From the Southeast: Shamika Shufford, New Hanover County; and Julie Batchelor, Greene County. From the Central Region: Guilford County Schools created a new position-Executive Director of Career and Technical Education and hired Charles Blanchard for the position. From the Northwest: Dr. Aron Gabriel and Jessica Shouweiler, Newton-Conover; Tierra Stark, Watauga County; Heath Vogler, Alleghany County; Beth Felts, Elkin City; and Diane Roberts, Thomasville. From the Southwest: Susan Gann, Charlotte/Meck; Wade Auman, Montgomery County; and Amanda Dixon, Moore County. From the West: Taylor Baldwin, Asheville City; and Jimmy Huey, Madison County.

It is an advantage that CTE has a great program to prepare new directors because the following CTE directors retired in 2016-2017: Jennifer Hill, Gates County; Sandra Hardy, Bertie County; Barbara Long, Elkin County; Paul Crouse, Alleghany County; Julia Styers, Newton-Conover; Lana Bradley, Asheville, LaVerne Pickett, New Hanover; Peggy Rouse, Greene County; Jimmy Chancey, Charlotte/Mecklenberg; and David Wehbie, from Wake County Schools. We wish them the very best in their retirement and are grateful we had the chance to work with these wonderful professionals.

News from Summer Conference 2017

NCACTEA had a very productive summer conference this year and during our annual meeting and luncheon, the new division officers were inducted and the following directors were recognized as *Administrator of the Year* for their regions:

Northeast--Jean Taylor, Dare County



Southeast—Chip Lucas, Cumberland County



Central-- Robin Bowers, Alamance/Burlington



Northwest-- LeeAnn Tuttle-Thomas, Davidson County



Southwest—Sharon Johnson, Richmond County



Western—Kim Davis, Avery County



From L to R: State Director JoAnne Honeycutt, Vice President Robert Filter, President Elect Sharon Johnson, Past President Chip Lucas, President Chris Bailey, Treasurer Lynn Hartley, and Secretary Pam Lucas.



Support the Mission of CTE: A Message from Our NCACTEA President Chris Bailey

Our Craven CTE staff was recently aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point for our CTE opening meeting. The staff received briefings from many marines and sailors concerning their MOS (Military Occupational Specialty). It was amazing to hear how these young men entered the military and what drove them to their current career status. One marine told us of the electrical trades courses he took in high school, how what he learned enabled him to excel on the ASVAB, and how he began his MOS as an ejection seat mechanic. A sailor spoke about his MOS in environmental health and of the certifications he held such as EMT Basic, ServSafe, and a pesticide license. We certainly learned that the skills we teach through CTE are highly transferable to many military occupations.

The takeaway for me, however, was something completely different. Every one of the marines, sailors, and civilian personnel that we interacted with all referred to how their job or MOS was to “support the mission”. They each understood how their roles and responsibilities were uniquely connected and vital to the mission. They also understood how the mission would be compromised or have the potential for failure if they did not to coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate between all the occupational specialties.

Our Career and Technical Education programs have the awesome mission of creating our future workforce. That mission is critical to the survival of countless business and industries as well to the survival of the future of the American workforce. Joining forces with ACTE, NCACTE and its divisions support that mission by advancing and securing support for CTE programs. Every NCACTE member, no matter our role or program area, has a part, place, and responsibility to ensure the mission is successful. As your students return to your classrooms, take time to reflect how you in your role will “support the mission” of promoting CTE to your community, state and nation.