

STREET SWEEPER

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From the Center for Work Based Learning and Career Readiness

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***If you are called to be a street sweeper, you should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'* - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



Where Life's Road Can Lead You

Mrs. Sheila Moore, Innovation Center

I got my job in William Penn's Library by complete accident. Twenty-seven years ago, we moved to New Castle from Ocean City, MD. My son was in the 2nd grade at Carrie Downie and having a hard time adjusting to his new surroundings. To help make the transition smoother, I volunteered in the library; being useful to the school and being close by for my son at the same time. This connection led me to a job interview for the William Penn Library the following summer. Here I am 26 years later in our new Innovation Center and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else! You never know how one's experience or journey is going to change your life!

Advocate for you

Ms. Stefanie Stephens, CIS

My first real job was scooping ice cream at Friendly's. I wanted to be promoted to a wait staff to earn more money. I just thought I had to work hard and prove myself, and it would happen, but it didn't. After 6 months, I inquired about the position to my assistant manager. The next week, I was promoted. My manager stated that she wasn't aware that I was interested in being a wait staff and that I could have made the transition a few months ago if I would have said something. From then on, I learned that you can be the best in your company; however, if you don't advocate for yourself, you won't go anywhere.

Mom's Lesson

Mrs. Debbie Pfozter, English Department

I worked my first real job in high school. It was at a bakery. I was a sales clerk and my responsibilities involved working the cash register, assisting customers, and cleaning the store at the end of the day. It was my first time working with the public and the skills I had to learn in a hurry involved being pleasant to customers who were rude, learning to multi-task, and realizing that communication comes in many different forms. I was 16 at the time, and even though I thought I knew it all, I found out real fast I didn't. The job was one that allowed me to save for my first car. I also learned how to budget the money I made so that I could save for a car. My mom required that as a working person, I had to pay her \$20.00 of my \$80.00 I earned for room and board. What I didn't realize then, was that my mom was putting that money I paid her into a separate account and later in my life when I needed it, she was able to help me.

I think students today have the same learning curve as far as developing skills in the work place. I didn't know it all like I thought, and I had to learn how to be more respectful to someone who was being totally rude to me. Many students simply "quit" when the job gets tough or someone says something not pleasant. My mom wouldn't let me quit anything. That alone made me a stronger person.



Jobs with Scholarships and Educational Benefits

- [America's First Job-McDonalds](#)
- [Burger King Scholars and Literacy Programs](#)
- [7 Reasons It's Awesome to Work at a Chick-fil-A Restaurant](#)
- [Wawa Students & Recent Graduates](#)
- College Graduate Leadership Program
- Education Assistance Plan
- Loan Forgiveness

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What's going on in Work Based Learning (WBL)



Our students are experiencing their first jobs in the workplace in many ways; from fast food restaurants like McDonalds to five-star restaurants like the Hotel DuPont, our students are doing it all! Our business partners are truly committed to ensuring that our students get real-world experiences in the workplace.

Interns at DuPont receive training, uniforms, lockers, and ID cards, and they punch in and out on a time clock.

Each of our business partners provide some type of employment training before students begin to work.

Hungry

During the holidays, our students demonstrated their commitment by working Christmas Day. Najha worked on Christmas Day which also happens to be her birthday, with her peers at the Hotel DuPont's Green Room. Many of WBL's students also worked on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



The main reason

Why are students and parents/guardians so engaged with and committed to WBL? WBL meets and fulfills students' academic, personal/social, and career needs, and it is the main reason for many of these success stories:

"My job at Hotel DuPont is wonderful. I love the people I work with, and I'm glad they kept me on."
- Afney Ward, Senior

"Working at Hotel DuPont has been a great and fun opportunity that I am glad I could take part in. My favorite thing about working at the hotel is learning new experiences and new recipes."
- Najha Younger, Senior

"I love my job at Hotel DuPont. I was surprised my first check was over \$500.00."
- Mark Cook, Senior

"I would like to thank WBL for assistance with my children obtaining their 1st job positions. They had been seeking employment for over a year, but WBL helped them. While it has been challenging, WBL has stood by my boys, providing confidence in their performance in their positions and being a productive community member."
- Ms. Shannae Moses, Parent

"Leila has always been a smart, goal-driven young lady. WBL has helped to increase her sense of responsibility and made her more focused and confident in pursuing her goals."
- Wendell Burke, Parent

Dare to be first

They are also accomplishing major feats. Jzhanece Frierson, Senior was the first high school student chef to receive an internship with the University and Whist Club. Our phlebotomy students are the first high school students to job shadow at Any Lab Test, where they are not only doing phlebotomy testing but are learning about DNA testing, as well.

This summer, approximately 45 students will be participating with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in the New Castle County Summer Youth Employment Program.



30 students will be working at Wilmington Blue Rocks Stadium, and 15 culinary students will be working at the Constitution Yards eatery in Wilmington.

The new Chipotle on Route 13 will open soon and be managed by Jeffrey Estrada, a senior at William Penn. He also helps manage the Chipotle on Kirkwood Hwy.



Nicole Webb, a stand-out student whose talents blossomed at Penn Farm was a top pick for New Castle County's new Farmers Markets. Nicole was the first student selected to work at the Glasgow & Rockwood locations as a community worker.

Did you know

Our Superintendent, Dr. Dusty Blakey's very successful career as an innovative leader begin as a crew member at McDonalds? It goes to show WBL can be the beginning of great things for students who master solid job ethics early in life.



According to management teams at Best Buy and Staples, we have more students working at those locations than any other high school in Delaware. Many students are also receiving their first job opportunities at Burger King and McDonald's.

Home Depot and Lowes are creating specific opportunities for our students who are committed to working hard. We are also working with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Pettinaro to create co-op opportunities for our construction students.



Porter Chevrolet offered two co-op opportunities for two students to become automotive technicians.



THANK YOU

WBL embodies what Colonial Nation calls the Power of WE. Thanks go out to all who helped connect home and the classroom to the workplace: parents/guardians, business partners, administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff members, bus drivers, nutrition services workers, crossing guards, and all who pushed and encouraged our students this year to participate in WBL. There's still a lot of work to do. However, because of you, our students are experiencing the workplace with impact. Together WE are making a difference in the lives of our students!