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# City of Thomasville

## From the Mayor's Office

**Sheldon A. Day, Mayor**

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Rita (Kay) Larrimore, Coordinator  
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Ms. Larrimore:

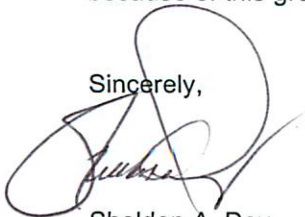
February 3, 2017

I just wanted to take the opportunity to once again thank you and the entire Thomasville City School's Career Tech team for what you all are doing to prepare our youth for careers. The Work Based Learning (COOP) Program is an awesome program! The fact you have almost 100 of our youth who are working at various businesses and organizations throughout our city is absolutely amazing! Exposing our youth to the workplace early has proven to enhance their awareness of soft skills and better prepare them to make critical career choices in the future.

Numerous businesses have told me personally how great it is to have a school system and community that is encouraging our youth to get a job, learn a career, and more than anything receive a good dose of the "real world" of business and personal responsibility while in high school! To hear that our students have made direct wages of \$192,255.21 is quiet gratifying. But to hear that those wages had a local impact of \$1,345,786.47 is phenomenal!

Your program is extremely critical to the future economy of Thomasville and other rural communities. To be truly successful, we must grow our own workforce and develop future opportunities for our children to stay home if they choose to do so! Like many rural communities our children are sometimes our largest export due to lack of quality jobs and career opportunities. However, if we can continue the success you have started coupled with our great career tech program....our workforce will continue to grow and industry will move "to" small towns like us instead of "away" from us. Your program is already having an impact on bringing new business to Thomasville. The future is brighter for our children and our city because of this great program.....Keep up the great work and call on me if I can assist in any way!

Sincerely,



Sheldon A. Day

Mayor

