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More businesses needed for THS work-based learning program

By Barry H. Hendrix

The career tech department at [Thomasville High School](#) is seeking more businesses and industries in the greater Thomasville area to participate in the work-based learning program.

According to [Mike Rutledge](#) with the state department of Career and [Technical Education](#) and [Workforce Development](#), employed students at THS earned \$192,255.21 in documented wages for the 2015-2016 school year with a local economic impact in the community of \$1,345,786.47.

Career tech teacher [Kay Larrimore](#) is in charge of the work-based program. Approximately 40 employed students are already signed up to return for the next school year. The program has received 200 applications over all.

Larrimore would like to have at least 100 students placed in the program. She checks on each student placed in a job, once-a-month.

“It depends on the businesses being willing to hire my kids, and the kids to make it work,” she said. “The kids are what makes or breaks this program.” The students are also graded twice-a-semester on their work.

Employers know they are getting responsible students who are backed by the discipline in the THS program.

Larrimore has had years teaching career preparedness.

“I know my kids – who works good where,” she said. “I know who would be good. ...I expect their best.”

Larrimore will accept applications from students during the summer by email at larrimore@thomasvilleschools.org. However, students who have a job or internship must contact her before the first day for students at THS on Aug. 8, 2016.

Businesses interested in hiring students from the THS program may also contact Larrimore by email.

Many students who graduate from THS will continue to work in the jobs they had in the Thomasville area through the workbased program or will find a similar job in the city where they attend college, she said.

Larrimore works hard to try to fit a student in a job similar to a field they are interested in. Following is the list of businesses, which supported the work-based learning program during the 2015-2016 school year:

- Amford Agency
- [Animal Hospital of Thomasville](#)
- [Big Mike's Steakhouse](#)
- Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Alabama
- [Brooks Chevrolet](#)
- City of Thomasville [Recreation Dept.](#)
- Clarke County Pole
- [David's Catfish House](#)
- [Dr. Huey Kidd](#) (Physician's Care)
- Dr. Randy Walters
- [Gaston's Grill](#)
- [Gilmore Law Firm](#)
- H & M Specialty Cleaners
- Hardees
- [Hudson's Dirt Cheap](#)
- Lee's Kloset
- [Lewis Pest Control](#)
- Linda's School of Gymnastics
- Marvin's Hardware
- [McDonald's Restaurant](#)
- [Pine Hill Baptist Church](#)
- [Precision Auto](#)
- Sears of Thomasville
- Sonic of Thomasville
- [State Farm Insurance \(Larry Jones\)](#)
- Subway
- [Super Foods](#)
- T & L Industries
- [Taco Bell](#)
- [Thomasville Baptist Church](#)
- [Thomasville Health Care and Rehabilitation Center](#)
- [Thomasville Public Library](#)
- [Thomasville Retirement Center](#)
- [Tractor Supply Company](#)
- Walgreens

Larrimore encouraged parents of students and members of the community to support these businesses who have hired local youth.