

# I. WBL Teacher Certification

# **VII. Increase the Number of Business Partners/Responsible Students**

**Rita “Kay” Larrimore**

Thomasville High School, Thomasville, AL

## **Advertise, Advertise, Advertise**

- ✓ Local Newspaper
  - ✓ Facebook
  - ✓ School Website
- ✓ School Cafeteria or Bulletin Board
  - ✓ Local Chamber of Commerce

# Local Newspaper:

- Meet with the editor of your local newspaper
- Ask if you can submit an “**Employee and Employer of the Week**”
  - “**Intern of the Week**”
- This gets the program attention from:
  - Your community
  - Local businesses
  - Your town leaders – the mayor is one of my biggest supporters
  - New businesses coming into the community
  - Your school administrators
- Submit a “**Thank You**” ad for all participating businesses
- Submit the impact of wages earned by WBL
  - This amount comes from Mr. Rutledge after submitting wages earned
  - This really got the attention of my local community

# Submit an "Employee, Employer and Intern of the Week" to Your Local Newspaper

## Bilbrey named 'Employee of the Week'



The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School announces that Nic Bilbrey, right, has been selected as the "Employee of the Week". Bilbrey helps in many areas including loading trucks and conducting inventory. Because he is performing so well, he will take over post production, shipping and sales upon graduation. With Bilbrey is Kevin Bilbrey, owner of Clarke County Pole. The program expresses appreciation to Clarke County Pole for being a supporter of the program. They have been selected as the "Employers of the Week".

## Burroughs named 'Intern of the Week'



The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School announces that KeAndrea Burroughs, right, has been selected as the "Intern of the Week". Burroughs has many duties including shelving books, helping students to find books, checking in and checking out books. With Burroughs is Tracy Hosea, the Librarian at Thomasville Elementary school. Students and teachers dressed as their favorite characters this week to celebrate "Read Across America Week". The program expresses appreciation to Mrs. Hosea and TES for supporting the program.

# Newspaper Ads Lead to New Business Inquiries:

**CD Copper considers internship**



**School officials meet with GD Copper director**

K. C. Pang, director of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs at Golden Dragon (GD) Copper, met recently with officials of Thomasville City Schools at Thomasville City Hall. From left are Randall Fullington, career tech coordinator for Thomasville schools; Charles Alford, principal at Thomasville High School;

Kay Larrimore, career tech supervisor of work-based learning; Mayor Sheldon Day; Pang; LaToya Dixon, employee relations/benefits coordinator with GD Copper; and Dr. Vic Adkison, school superintendent.

Submitted Photo

The THS WBL program is strongly supported by:

- TCS Career Tech Director, Randall Fullington
- THS Principal, Charles Alford II
- TCS Superintendent, Dr. Vic Adkison
- City of Thomasville, Mayor Sheldon Day

# Facebook, Social Media, etc.

Kay Aldridge Larrimore with Julie Larrimore Jackson and 3 others.  
23 hrs · Thomasville · 🌐

The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School is pleased to announce that Kayren, center, has been selected as the "Employee of the Week". Pictured with Kayren is Kenya Gamble, Store Floor Leader and Erika Winters, Senior Service Clerk at Walgreens. We would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Ernest Curry and Walgreens for being a supporter of our program. They are the "Employers of the Week". Kayren is a Customer Service Associate, where she assists customers, stocks and is a cashier.



Like Comment Share

Kay Aldridge Larrimore with Vic Noel Adkison and 2 others.  
March 11 at 3:27pm · 🌐

The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School is pleased to announce that Candice, left, has been selected as the "Employee of the Week". Pictured with Candice is Melissa Jenks, Controller at Brooks Motors in Thomasville. We would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Harry Brooks and Brooks Motors for being a supporter of our program. They are the "Employers of the Week". Candice helps in many areas including scanning documents and working with computer software.



Kay Aldridge Larrimore with Livia Grace Coleman and Alexandria Charmaine.  
February 26 at 3:41pm · 🌐

The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School is pleased to announce that Alexandria, left, has been selected as the "Intern of the Week". Pictured with Alexandria is Livia Coleman, Commerce and Information Technology Instructor and FBLA Advisor at Thomasville High School. Alexandria assists in many areas such as FBLA Bookkeeper, preparing flyers, etc. We would like to thank Mrs. Coleman and Thomasville High School for supporting our program.



Kay Aldridge Larrimore added 2 new photos — with Brandi Webb Scarborough and 2 others.  
February 19 · 🌐

The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School is pleased to announce that Kerry, right, has been selected as the "Intern of the Week". Pictured with Kerry is Michael Scarborough, Minister of Music at Thomasville Baptist Church. Kerry assists in many areas of the church including the youth department. We would like to thank Thomasville Baptist Church for supporting our program.

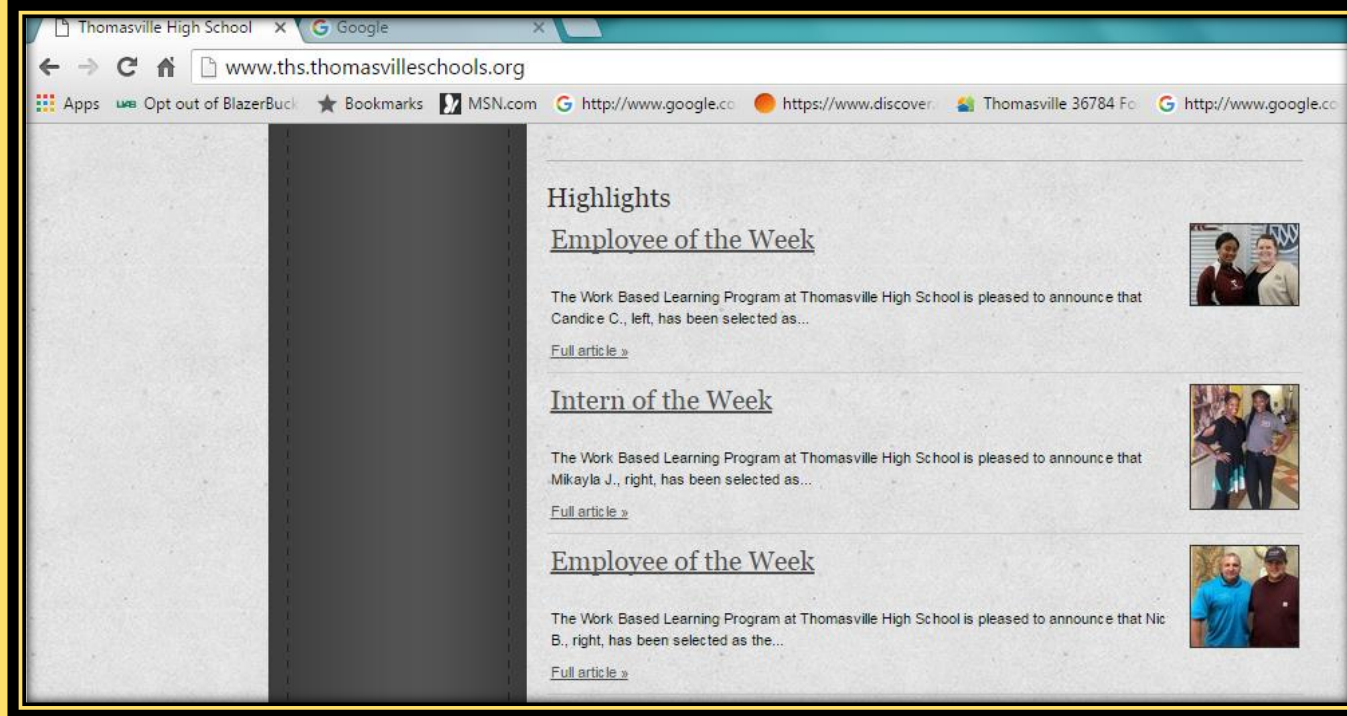


Kay Aldridge Larrimore with Jessica Damron Baker and Krista Pugh.  
February 19 · 🌐

The Work Based Learning Program at Thomasville High School is pleased to announce that Krista, left, has been selected as the "Employee of the Week". Pictured with Krista is Larry Sheffield, Manager of Super Foods. We would like to express our appreciation to Super Foods for being a supporter of our program. They are the "Employers of the Week". Krista is a cashier and helps in other areas as well.

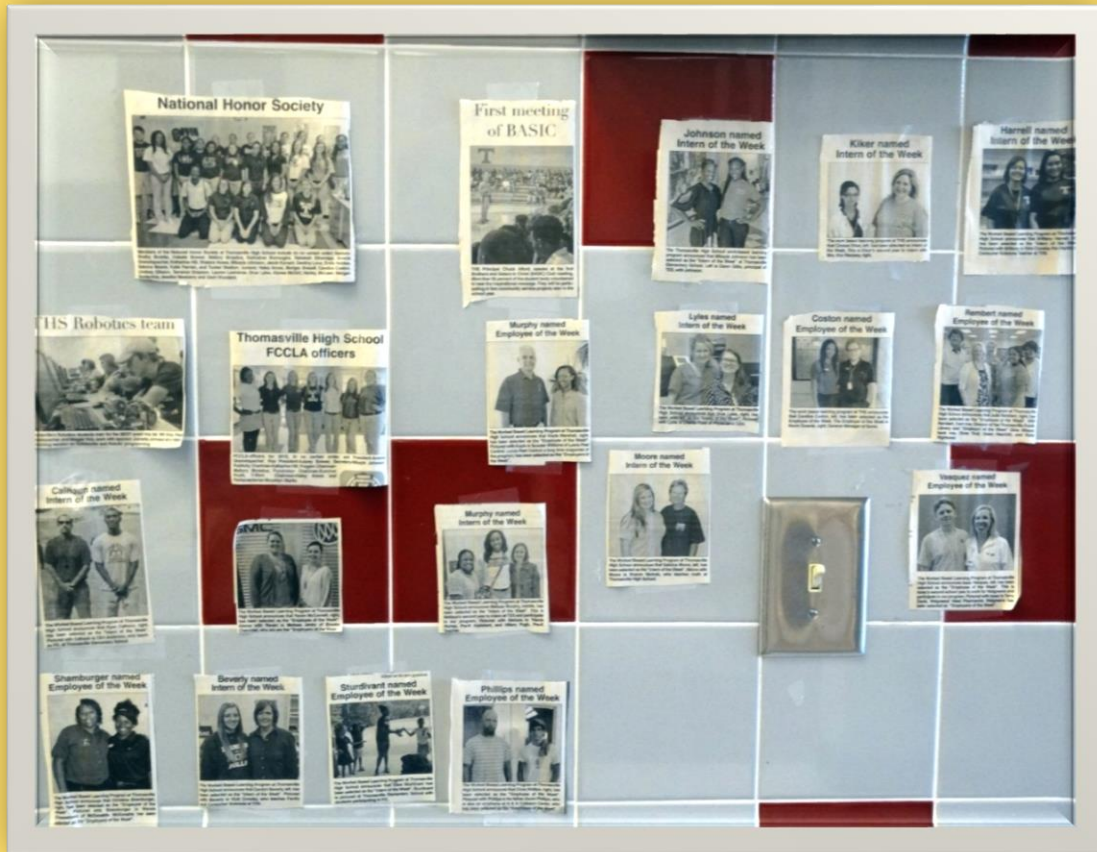


# Thomasville High School's Website:



- Meet with your school's webmaster to publish:
  - "Employee, Employer and Intern of the Week"
  - Information for WBL students and parents
  - Information for employers

# Thomasville High School Cafeteria and Classroom:



\*Look for places other than your classroom to post accomplishments of your WBL students\*

# State Wide Publications:

- ❖ *Alabama Education News Journal*
- ❖ *Cooperative Farming News*



# Thomasville's WBL is a "win-win" for the Community

Carolyn Drinkard · Public Relations/Marketing · Thomasville City Schools

When the economy took a downturn in 2008, most Alabama schools had difficulties finding jobs for students in their Work-Based Learning (WBL) Programs. This was not the case, however, in Thomasville, a community of less than 5,000 people. Even through the uncertainties of the recession, businesses in this community stepped forth to offer jobs to students. In fact, Thomasville High School has seen demand for the popular program grow each year, and in 2015 placements are at an all-time high.

Local employers have learned that WBL students are good investments. These students not only have the skills employers are seeking, but also they possess the soft skills that make a good employee. In turn, students in work-based learning contribute to Thomasville's economy, pumping over a quarter of a million dollars into the local economy last year. After working and developing relationships with the WBL students, employers and community members have also developed a greater trust and confidence in Thomasville's schools.

"The Work-Based Learning Program is an example of what makes Thomasville great," said Chuck Alford, principal at THS. "The cooperative effort between school and community affords our students work experiences and training that will benefit them long after their high school days."

Gina Wilson, Director of Thomasville's Public Library, agrees. Three of her recent workers have found college jobs at major university libraries. These students have told Wilson that their work experiences in Thomasville's Library prepared them for working in a college environment.

"We have loved each student who has worked here," said Wilson. "They brought a fresh perspective to our staff. Also, our customers

“ THE WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT MAKES THOMASVILLE GREAT, ”  
- CHUCK ALFORD, PRINCIPAL

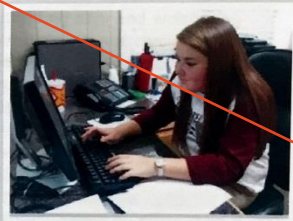
enjoyed seeing those THS shirts here in the library. I would encourage any employer to use WBL students."

Ernest Curry of Walgreens said that his participation in the program had been a positive experience. "This program has been a God-send for our business. The quality of students that we get is very high. Our customers know these kids, and they have relationships with them and support them. I feel like we're working with the community

*continued on page 8*



Katie Parrish, a senior at THS, tags jeans that have just come in to the clothing store. Parrish works at Lee's Kloseit, a business in Thomasville that supports WBL students.



Haley Amos, a senior at THS who hopes to work in the medical field, works in the dental office of Dr. Randy Walters.



Hayden Megginson interns at Thomasville Elementary School in the Physical Education Department. Principal Dawn Gillis says that the student interns are a blessing for the teachers and students.

Alabama Education News

# Thomasville's WBL is a "win-win"

*continued from page 3*

to mold the future of these youngsters, and this is what our country needs to do!"

Mayor Sheldon Day sees the program as a model for a community working together. "Employers realized our schools 'wanted' their input on how to better prepare our children for the workplace and their future careers. Thomasville's WBL program is a wonderful example of cooperation and collaboration to develop a 'win-win' for our students and our local businesses."

The success of the program continues to attract even more businesses. Recently, representatives from the Golden Dragon Copper plant approached Thomasville City Schools about starting a student intern program at GD Copper.

"There are so many great employers in Thomasville that, along with our hard working students, have made this program a success," explained Kay Larrimore who coordinates the program. "The students do what they are supposed to and they work very hard. I have to say that the businesses in our community and our students are the keys to the success of Thomasville High School's Work-Based Learning Program."

The Work-Based Learning Program offers mutual benefits for everyone involved. "We are so excited to give these students the opportunity to participate in this career tech program," added principal, Chuck Alford. "Our community works with us to make sure all of our students graduate and are prepared for life."

For more information about this program, call Kay Larrimore at 334-636-4451.



Recently, representatives from Golden Dragon Copper met with Thomasville City Schools officials to set the foundation for a WBL internship with it's company. (L to R) Randall Fullington, Career Tech Director; Chuck Alford, THS principal; Kay Larrimore, WBL Coordinator; Sheldon Day, Mayor of Thomasville; K.C. Pang, Director of HR & Corporate Affairs at Golden Dragon; Latoya Dixon, Employee Relations/Benefits Coordinator at Golden Dragon; and Dr. Vic Adkison, Superintendent, Thomasville City Schools.

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# Cooperative Farming News



Recently, representatives from Golden Dragon Copper met with Thomasville city school officials to set the foundation for a WBL internship with their company. (From left) **Randall Fullington**, Career Tech Director; **Chuck Alford**, Thomasville High School principal; **Kay Larrimore**, WBL Coordinator; **Sheldon Day**, Mayor of Thomasville; **KC Pang**, Director of HR & Corporate Affairs at Golden Dragon; **Latoya Dixon**, employee relations/benefits coordinator at Golden Dragon; and **Dr. Vic Adkison**, superintendent of Thomasville City Schools.

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Thomasville community supports successful Work-Based Learning Program.



Kay Larrimore, left, coordinates the Work-Based Learning program. She works with Candace Coston to record Candace's work hours for the week.

When the economy took a downturn in 2008, most Alabama schools had difficulties finding jobs for students in their Work-Based Learning programs. This was not the case, however, in Thomasville, a community of less than 5,000 people. Even through the uncertainties of the recession, businesses in this community stepped forth to support our students.

The Work-Based Learning curriculum connects what students learn in the classroom with real-life job experiences. Students participate in either paid apprenticeships or unpaid internships. The school and the employer work together to plan work-based experiences associated with the student's career objectives. The students are then mentored and supervised by both the employer and the WBL teacher.

Students gain a greater understanding of the workplace experience while observing professionals who mentor and model successful strategies and behaviors. Their work experiences encourage tolerance, respect and understanding among all groups. Students are also able to develop a network of professional contacts who could potentially help them with future employment.

The benefits of the program have been measured in a rise in both attendance and graduation rates among WBL participants. Although Thomasville proudly boasts a 95 percent graduation rate, school officials quickly pointed out that they will not be satisfied until all students graduate prepared for college or a career.

Thomasville High School has seen demand for the popular program grow each year and, in 2015, placements are at an all-time high. Local employers have learned that WBL students are good investments. These students not only have the practical skills employers are seeking, but they also possess the soft skills that make a good employee. This relationship has benefited both the community and the schools. Students in WBL pumped over half a million dollars into Thomasville's local economy last year. In addition, the success of the program has led employers and community members to have greater trust and confidence in Thomasville's schools.

"The Work-Based Learning program is an example of what makes Thomasville great," said Chuck Alford, principal at THS. "The cooperative effort



Left, Thomasville Healthcare and Rehab Center employs many WBL students. Their residents relax to the teens and bond with them. **Quiana Austin** delivers items to the residents and brings a smile every day. Below, **Kayd Kelly** is a WBL apprentice at Sears. Here, she tags washers that have just arrived.



Chris Phillips works at A&N Collision. He has gained experience in repairing painting and body work. He has also become a specialist in dentistry.



Right, Julie Bernbert works at the Thomasville Public Library. She has gained experience in all aspects of the library, including working with job seekers who use the library to prepare resumes. Below, **Katie Parrish** tags jeans to be added to the stock at Lee's Kiosk. She is a senior at Thomasville High School and has been in the WBL for two years.



Caleb Schreiner works at Big Mike's Steak House, a popular restaurant in Thomasville. Pictured with Schreiner are **Jamie Jackson**, left, and **Krista Garrick**, right, employees of Big Mike's.



Drew Lyfer's job at Precision Care has given her numerous opportunities to gain experience in the medical field. Here, she catalogs x-rays.



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our community and our students are the keys to the success of Thomasville High School's Work-Based Learning program."

The Work-Based Learning program is an investment in the future with mutual benefits for everyone involved.

"We are so excited to give these students the opportunity to participate in this Career Tech program," Alford added. "Our community works

with us to make sure all of our students graduate and are prepared for life."

For more information about this program, call Kay Larrimore at 334-636-4451. ■

Carolyn Drinkard is a freelance writer from Thomasville. She may be contacted at [drinkardcarolyn@gmail.com](mailto:drinkardcarolyn@gmail.com).

ville's WBL program is a wonderful example of cooperation and collaboration to develop a "win-win" for our students and our local businesses," Day said.

The success of the program continues to attract even more businesses. Recently, representatives from the Golden Dragon Copper plant approached city school officials about starting a student intern program.

Scott Lewis, president and general manager of Lewis Pest Control, has been a part of the WBL program since its beginning. Lewis pointed out that for this



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# Local Chamber and Mayor:

- Meet with the administrator to request:
  - Advertisement in the chamber's newsletter
  - Brochures be placed in the main office
- Meet with your town mayor to:
  - Share your passion about Work Based Learning
  - Inquire about new businesses coming to the community
  - Gain support!!!!!!

