

2013 HC*EXCELL E-NEWS

“EDUCATION MATTERS: CRADLE through CAREER”

The Hamblen County Foundation for Educational Excellence and Achievement (HC*EXCELL) mission is to promote educational excellence and achievement as a means of sustaining economic prosperity and improving the quality of life in Hamblen County. HC*EXCELL was established as a 501(c)(3) foundation in 1991 by community leaders to support and advance student educational excellence and achievement.

“**Education Matters: Cradle through Career**” is HC*EXCELL’s strategic initiative to broaden community commitment and investment in quality education by supporting and developing programming to prepare our children to be school ready; successful in K-12 transition; and have options for post-secondary access and success. This work is made possible by generous and visionary community donors, grants and fundraising that support the foundation’s efforts to ensure high school graduates are ready for post-secondary education, work and life. Facilitated work is outlined below. (www.hcexcell.org for a list of benefactors)

Pre-School Readiness

Hamblen County’s Dolly Parton Imagination

Library Program provides free high quality, age appropriate books on a monthly basis to Hamblen County birth to age five children. Books are paid for through funds raised by HC*EXCELL and the Governor’s Books to Birth Foundation. The Hamblen County IML partnership includes: HC*EXCELL Benefactors, Walters State Community College, Kiwanis Club of Morristown, Morristown-Hamblen County Library, Rotary Club of Morristown A.M. and the U.S. Postal Service. Since 2004, Hamblen County children have received approximately 168,417 books at an approximate cost of \$180,000.

Please come join the Hamblen County Imagination Partnership on December 10th, 2013, in kicking off its 10th year of providing books to Hamblen County children. The event will take place at the Morristown-Hamblen Library from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

“**Catch Them before They Fall**” is an early childhood intervention program to provide our most vulnerable parents with instruction and support to assist them in helping their children achieve school readiness.

HC*EXCELL partners with the Rotary Club of Morristown A.M., Pregnancy Crisis Center, Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority Head Start programs, Morristown-Hamblen County Library, Morristown Childcare Center and Morristown Housing Authority.

K-12 Successful Transition

Arts Build Skills is a West Elementary pilot project to improve at-risk students’ math and reading skills. The 2013 three prong program consists of: Math Art and Readers Theater components implemented into third grade classroom curriculum; a second grade after-school Math Art and Readers Theater 10 session program; and six Art Assembly programs for K-2 and grades 3-5. Project partners include: West Elementary School Rotary Club of Morristown A.M., Rose Center, and HC*EXCELL.

Junior Achievement BizTown (JA) - Through the generosity of SunTrust Bank and HC*EXCELL Benefactors and the Hamblen County School System all eleven Hamblen County elementary school fifth graders will have the opportunity to participate in JA Biztown during the current school year.

The JA BizTown experience is brought to life by teachers using JA provided in-class curriculum that encompasses financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship: the “Economics of Life.”

After participating in multiple classroom lessons in preparation for JA BizTown, students pack up and head to an exhilarating day-long, simulated city experience at Junior Achievement of East Tennessee in Clinton, TN. JA BizTown helps students connect the dots through role play: students are a CEO, CFO, Utility Engineer, Sales Manager, Mayor and more for a day!

While at BizTown students will explore what they have learned through role play: they will run businesses, get paid, pay taxes, manage their checking accounts, vote, and much more!

Five years ago the Hamblen County BizTown program began as a four school pilot program sponsored by Don Rogers and Rotary Club of Morristown A. M.

High School Leadership in-school curriculum classes were implemented through the **Tuff Torq Corporation \$50,000 Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship**. Current programming is supported by HC*EXCELL Benefactors and the Hamblen County School System. From January to May of 2014 three leadership classes of approximately 70 Morristown Hamblen East and West High School students will participate in a class curriculum that includes public speaking, project organization, team building, leadership skills and service learning.

HC*EXCELL E-NEWS

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Post-Secondary Access and Success

tnAchieves – In 2011 HC*EXCELL convened representatives of the City of Morristown, Hamblen County Government, Hamblen County Board of Education, Walters State Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology, Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce, and Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority to explore opportunities to increase post-secondary access and success by becoming a **tnAchieves** partner.

tnAchieves is a college access, last dollar scholarship program designed to provide an opportunity for Hamblen County public high school graduates to receive mentoring and up to \$3,000 annually for community college or technical college tuition. HC*EXCELL, City of Morristown, Hamblen County Government and the Hamblen County Board of Education joined together to form a partnership to provide funding to support student post-secondary achievement.

449 Hamblen County High School seniors have applied for this year's Hamblen County **tnAchieves** program. We need 41 additional mentors. To learn about become a **tnAchieves** mentor go to www.tnachieves.org.

Hamblen County P-16 Council program of work for 2013-2016 is focusing on "Education Matters: Cradle through Career" initiative components to prepare our children to be school ready; support successful K-12 transition; provide options for post-secondary access and broaden community investment and commitment to quality education.

In 2013-2014 the council will concentrate on aligning workforce development with education curriculum and providing the public with information on the purpose, history and implementation process of the "Common Core State Standards."

In December of 2012 the Hamblen County P-16 Council co-sponsored a Mayors' Workforce Education Forum which resulted in the formation of a taskforce to develop a plan for funding and hiring a part-time workforce/education/profile coordinator. Funding was solicited and committed for the three-year pilot phase and a coordinator was hired to team

with the taskforce to create a strategic plan for aligning education and workforce development.

The position is managed and funded by Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority with taskforce partners HC*EXCELL, City of Morristown, Hamblen County Government, Alcoa Foundation and the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Broadening Community Commitment and Investment

In an effort to increase community understanding and support for more rigorous curriculum and academic standards HC*EXCELL is partnering with the *Citizen Tribune*, and State Collaborative for Reforming Education (SCORE) to increase awareness and backing for *Common Core State Standards*.

Media articles, a Common Core State Standards Tab, and presentations are being organized throughout Hamblen County to inform the citizenry of the need for an educated workforce in sustaining economic success for all.

Additionally HC*EXCELL provides recognition and a \$500 award to each of Hamblen County's **District Teachers of the Year (TOY)**. District TOY's are selected for their instructional excellence and dedication to their students' achievement. 2013 District Teachers of the Year are: Heather Godwin (Witt Elementary), Amy Mitchell (Manley Elementary, and Kim Hall (Morristown Hamblen West).

HC*EXCELL in partnership with the State of Tennessee provides funding for Hamblen County Teachers to take the National Board Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTC) certification course. NBPTC is a rigorous assessment of high quality teaching and teachers that obtain certification are among the most proficient in their field of teaching. 2013 Hamblen County NBPTC teachers are: Dr. Matthew Drinnon (John Hay) and Dr. Rebecca Drinnon (Morristown Hamblen East).

HC*EXCELL rewards National Board teachers with a \$500 check upon receipt of their certification and a yearly stipend of \$200 for being Board Certified. The Hamblen County Board of Education provides a yearly stipend of \$750 for Board Certification.

Volunteer and Mentorship Opportunities include **JA BizTown** Program and **tnAchieves**, If you are interested in being a volunteer or mentor please contact Linda Ketner at (423) 581-5334 or Tish Jones at (423) 587-9278.

JOIN THE HC*EXCELL "EDUCATION MATTERS: CRADLE THROUGH CAREER" CAMPAIGN BY MAKING A DONATION TODAY.

HC*EXCELL 1991 - 2013 LIFECYCLE and PROGRAMMING

1990 – 1991

- Dr. Kojiro Yamaoka, Chairman of the Tuff Torq Corporation, announcement of a \$50,000 gift to endow higher education scholarships for Hamblen County High School Graduates.
- Dwight Nelson; Ernest Walker, Ed.D. Superintendent of Hamblen County School System; and Takao Ogishita, then President of Tuff Torq Corporation, formed a committee to establish the Hamblen County Foundation for Educational Excellence and Achievement. The Foundation received 501 (c)(3) non-profit status in December 1991.
- Yamaoka Scholarship Fund established by Tuff Torq Corporation.

1992- 1997

- Toyoda, TRW Automotive, Inc. now (JTEKT Automotive Tennessee) endowed \$40,000 with interest supporting educator grants and normal activities of the foundation. Implemented teacher grants;
- The John Willis, James H. Loving, Marshall Mills, and Eddie Price Scholarship funds were transferred to HC*EXCELL endowed funds for facilitation;
- Tuff Torq Corporation gifted an additional \$51,058 to HC*EXCELL to support the Yamaoka Scholarship Fund and normal operation costs;
- HC*EXCELL Board held its first retreat and created a five year action plan that included expansion of the Board; a non-voting ex-officio board position for the Chair of the Hamblen County Board of Education or his designee; an annual at-large board position; a Capitol Campaign; and hiring a part-time executive director.

1998 – 2000

HC*EXCELL with funds raised from the Capitol Campaign began providing professional development for teachers and administrators; literacy and art programming; grants for teachers, administrators, students and community organizations. Examples are:

- Literacy Links, a Read 2000 Seminar
- Read 2000 College Square Mall, Rose Center and Morristown Hamblen Library Scholastic Book Sales and book distribution events for at-risk children
- Crockett Tavern History Event
- Read 2000 in-school Student Tutoring Program for at-risk youth
- Knoxville Symphony Regional Student Concert at Smokey Mountain Pavilion
- Operation Outreach
- Girl's Inc. Reading Grant
- Teacher of the Year Awards initiated

2001-2004

- Educational efforts implemented and expanded to include systemic work in education
- National Board of Professional Teacher Standards Certification grants and stipends implemented
- JTEKT Educational Leadership Award Created (purpose: to honor a business, industry, individual, school or organization that has followed the JTEKT lead in promoting above and beyond educational excellence in Hamblen County)
- Student Voices
- Roundtable PBS Schools (Roundtable Community Engagement Project)
 - Building a Knowledge Based Community Report released and published January 2003
- Teacher Art Institutes at Rose Center
- Pre-school Sunrise Skill Builder Books for at-risk families
- Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Grant
- First Principal for a Day Hamblen County Program
- Framework of Poverty Aha! Seminar at Rose Center (how to teach children of poverty)
- Aha! Video set for Hamblen County School System;

- \$5,000 Founders Grants (System, schools and teachers eligible)
- Teaching Curriculum through the Arts Seminar at Rose Center
- Partnered with Kiwanis Club of Morristown, Walters State Community College U.S. Postal Service and the Books from Birth Foundation to establish and implement the Hamblen County Imagination Library Program. (HC*EXCELL since implementation has facilitated and raised funds for the program.)
- Facilitated effort to convene community stakeholders for developing a local P-16 Council (pre-school through grade 16);
- Hamblen County P-16 Council established and designated as Tennessee's First Local P-16 Council. HC*EXCELL serves facilitator of the Hamblen County P-16 Council.

2005-2007

- \$10,000 MAHLE-Hans Jehle Technical Award established by the Executive Management Team of MAHLE to recognize and celebrate the leadership, guidance, and contributions of Hans D. Jehle, third President of MAHLE;
- Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership Fellowship gifted \$50,000 to transition the Morristown-Area Chamber of Commerce after school High School Leadership program into an in-school curriculum based semester course at Morristown Hamblen East and West High Schools. The purpose of the course is to teach leadership skills to sophomores and juniors.

2008-2011

- Facilitated Junior Achievement Partnership with Don Rogers, Hamblen County School System and Rotary Club of Morristown A.M. to provide an Elementary Pilot Program for instructing students in basic business skills and knowledge;
- Conducted Junior Achievement Pilot Survey that resulted in HC*EXCELL inviting all Hamblen County Elementary Schools to participate and partner in the 2012 Junior Achievement BizTown program.
- Facilitated the work of the Hamblen County P-16 Council;
- Facilitated the development of a tnAchieves Scholarship and Mentoring Partnership with the City of Morristown, Hamblen County Government, Hamblen County Board of Education and HC*EXCELL. Each partner contributed to a first match of \$4,500 and a second year match of \$6,250 as a match to a tnAchieves commitment. 262 high school seniors applied and 109 students registered for WSCC or Tennessee Technology Center at Morristown. 45 volunteers participated as mentors in 2012.

2012-2013

- Introduced *Education Matters: Cradle through Career Campaign* to help prepare our children for school entry; successful K-12 transition; options for post-secondary access and to broaden commitment and investment in quality education.
- Co-sponsored and facilitated Hamblen County tnAchieves program;
 - Co-sponsored Arts Build Skills elementary pilot;
 - Co-sponsored and facilitated 10 schools' JA BizTown Experience;
 - Raised funds for and co-facilitated Hamblen County Imagination Library Program;
 - Collaborated with the Lakeway Human Resource Manufacturers Association to develop the Lakeway Area Basic Entry and Promotable Skill document.
 - Co-sponsored and facilitated Mayors' Workforce/Education/Profile Forum which resulted in developing and implementing a plan to form a taskforce to align education and workforce skills; hired a part-time coordinator, and create a strategic plan for broadening and supporting increased academic rigor and workforce development.
 - Currently facilitating preschool, K-12 postsecondary access and completion options and initiatives to broaden community commitment and investment in quality education.,
 - Co-published *Common Core State Standards Tab* with the *Citizen Tribune* to inform citizens of the purpose, history and implementation process of increased academic rigor.