

HC*EXCELL E-NEWS

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HC*EXCELL's mission is to support and promote student achievement. As the organization has matured the board of directors continues to develop initiatives to positively affect student progress.

HC*EXCELL Major Sponsors for 2009-2010: Rogers Petroleum \$18,333; Jefferson Federal Charitable Foundation \$10,000; Alcoa Foundation \$10,000, and Colgate Palmolive \$10,000.

Hamblen County District Teachers of the Year: (TOY) are each awarded \$500 by HC*EXCELL to recognize their dedication and excellence in teaching. Teachers of the Year are selected for their instructional excellence and achievement. **The 2010 Hamblen County Teachers of the Year recipients:** Heather Stubblefield, Early Childhood; Paula Gaston, Elementary; Suzanne Romines, Middle Grades; and Traci Jefferson, High School.

The Dolly Parton Hamblen County Imagination Library (IML) Program

As the result of rising postal expense most of the books are being converted to soft cover. The Hamblen County IML program provides free high quality, age appropriated books on a monthly basis to children from birth to age five. Program fund are raised by HC*EXCELL and the Books to Birth Foundation. The Hamblen IML program is a partnership between HC*EXCELL, Walters State Community College, the Hamblen County School System, the Kiwanis Club of Morristown, the U.S. Postal Services and the Morristown-Hamblen Library. Since 2004, Hamblen County children have received 98,599 books at a cost of \$110,318.

National Board Professional Teacher Standards

(NBPTC) certification grants and stipends are provided by HC*EXCELL to those teachers that attempt and obtain certification. NBPTC is a rigorous assessment of high quality teaching and those teachers that obtain it are among the most proficient in their field of teaching. Hamblen County NBPTC teachers are: Amy Cannon, Velina Devault, Beth Freeman, Roxy Greene, Sandra Shetley and Christy Walker.

Founders Grant/s originated as an effort to recognize the contribution of the original HC*EXCELL founders; Dwight Nelson, Earnest Walker Ed.D., then superintendent of Hamblen County School System, and Takao Ogishita, then president of Tuff Torq Corporation. Its purpose is to provide funding for teacher, administrators and school staffs to support student achievement. In 2006 the Founders grant program was revised to provide \$5,000 yearly for arts and/or technology support to three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school for four years. The 2009-2010 Founders Grant schools are: Fairview-Marguerite, Hillcrest Elementary, John Hay, Meadowview, and Morristown-Hamblen High School East.

Hamblen County P-16 Council The 2009 Council Program of Work focused on supporting the Morristown-Hamblen County Community Profile Initiative. This entailed an in-kind contribution of \$5,000 in addition to Steering Committee and Committee leadership. The initiative has created a portrait of local current demographic and socio-economic conditions, set goals and benchmarks for 2015 and 2020. The next phase of the Initiative work is formulating actions and strategies for reaching those benchmarks. The goal of the Initiative is to ensure continued prosperity and improved quality of life for Morristown-Hamblen County. The Morristown-Hamblen County Community Profile will be released in April 2010.

Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership

Fellowship continues to provide support for in-school accredited teen leadership classes (HSL) at Morristown Hamblen East and West High Schools. The HSL curriculum includes public speaking, project organization and implementation, team building, leadership skills and service learning. Sixty plus sophomores and juniors have completed or are taking 2009-2010 HSL classes.

Public Education Network (PEN) is a network of Local Education Funds (LEFs) based in 32 states including Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico that reaches 8 million students in the U.S. As a member of PEN, HC*EXCELL is participating in the PEN three year strategic plan that include: increasing the rate at which low-income students and minority students graduate from public schools ready for college and a career; and helping stakeholders achieve and sustain permanent commitment to fulfilling a community's fundamental obligation to provide quality public education for all children.

Positive Youth Development Initiative (PYDI)

HC*EXCELL provides an opportunity for selected youth 14-19 years of age to participate in local, regional and national educational and leadership opportunities. This year Hamblen County PYDI students work worked to pass a local tax increase for education in addition to serving as interns of in the Morristown-Hamblen County Community Profile le initiative.

Junior Achievement (JA) - Through the generosity and leadership of Don Rogers and Rogers Petroleum, Inc. , HC*EXCELL has formed a partnership with the Hamblen County Board of Education for a Junior Achievement Pilot Program at Alpha, Fairview-Marguerite, Manley and John Hay Elementary Schools. The program's objective is to provide future employees with basic business skills and knowledge and increase academic performance. Thirty-seven (37) fall classes were conducted by community volunteers with five (5) in process and eight (8) spring classes currently scheduled.

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Continued

Fundraising Events hosted by HC*EXCELL included two Wine Pairings and two Grant Writing Workshops. Wine Pairings: HC*EXCELL, initiated wine pairings fundraiser events for 2009-2010. The Pairings provide an opportunity for participants to learn how to pair wine and food. Marwan Bader, wine expert for the evenings, has obtained a level 2 of the International Sommelier Guild certification. Eighty plus attendees participated in each event in September and March. Grant Writing Workshops: HC*EXCELL facilitated a beginner's Grant Writing Workshops in January and will hosts an intermediate grant application workshop in May for regional for profits and non-profit personnel. Dr. Bernard Turner the 2009 Board President for the American Association of Grant Professionals conducted the January workshop and will follow-up with an intermediate grant application work shop on May 6, 2010. For more information on future fundraising events contact Tish Jones at (423) 587-9278 or Laura Dickerson at (423) 748-7243.

Tennessee Diploma Project - In early 2007 Tennessee received an "F" for Truth in Advertising on the US Chamber of Commerce's State Education Comparison Report Card. The report stated that "There is no truth in advertising for Tennessee school standards. The reality is that students scoring at 79% are actually at 39% when compared to national standards (NAEP)." Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen and the Tennessee Department of Education recognized that many Tennessee high school graduates are not ready for postsecondary education and the workplace. These entities responded immediately to the Chamber of Commerce's report and led the charge to provide rigor and relevance to the teaching and learning process for Tennessee public schools. Tennessee began its effort by joining the American Diploma Project (ADP) which was created in 1996 by the national Governors Association and business to help states raise academic standards to better prepare young people for Post-secondary education, work and citizenship. ADP has done this by providing states with a blueprint for making the standards more rigorous and graduation requirements more in line with the demands of higher education and work. Tennessee became the 33rd state to join ADP. They began by speaking with educators, business and industry from across the date to determine what skills and knowledge w were needed to align high school curricula and assessment standards with post-secondary and workplace environments that graduates will face.

- Producing students who are workplace and/or college ready;
- Who have deeper understanding of math and science and their relationship to technology (STEM);
- Who can work cooperatively in groups; and
- Who are ready to demonstrate responsibilities in their own lives and in service to their community?

We are living in a changing world and are currently on a downward spiral in relation to the global economy. Unless we change to meet the challenges of the new economic model our quality of life as a community will continue to fall behind other countries, states and local economies. A skilled and knowledgeable workforce is needed to encourage businesses and industries to locate and expand in Morristown-Hamblen County. New businesses and industries can provide jobs which offer a living wage, health insurance and long-term security as well taxes to improve the overall quality of life. HC*EXCELL is working with the Hamblen County P-16 Council and the Hamblen County Board of Education to develop a Tennessee Diploma Project initiative for Hamblen County students to address the challenges and opportunities for ensuring our students are prepared for post-secondary education, work and life as productive citizens. As this initiative is unveiled we will ask for your support in providing Hamblen County students with the skills and education they need to succeed in life.

If you would like to support HC*EXCELL your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

We encourage individuals to:

Learn the facts about quality public schools

Vote to support and promote quality public education

Act by letting public officials and others know that quality public education is a top priority all year long

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