



# SUCCESS

Strategically Utilizing Community Creativity Empowering Student Success

## 2017 E-NEWS

***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.***



Dr. Kojiro Yamoka, Chairman of the Tuff Torq Corporation, announced a \$50,000 gift to endow student higher education scholarships at the plant dedication on April 20, 1990.

This gift inspired three men, Dwight Nelson, Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Chair; Earnest Walker Ed.D., Superintendent of the Hamblen County School System; and Takao Ogishita, President of Tuff Torq Corporation, to begin a process that led to the creation of HC\*EXCELL, a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit foundation in 1991.

HC\*EXCELL fulfills its mission through the philosophy of the 5 Cs: ***Convener, Collaborator, Communicator, Challenger and Champion*** for quality education and community improvement.

**E-News** was created as a vehicle to inform Hamblen County stakeholders of the Foundation's work and to encourage stakeholders and citizen participation in supporting and strengthening our local educational process.

In 2015, under the Presidency of James Craine and incoming President Mike Fishman, the Board reviewed and evaluated its work of 25 years. This review resulted in a \$1.3 million, five-year initiative called **SUCCESS** which stands for:

### ***Strategically Utilizing Community Creativity Empowering Student Success***

**SUCCESS** focuses on five areas of work:

- 🍎 **Ready by 6** aimed at increasing the number of children entering school prepared for success;
- 🍎 **Arts Build Skills** designed to broaden student critical thinking and problem solving skills by increasing integration of the arts in the elementary and middle school curriculum;
- 🍎 **Workforce and Leadership Development** directed toward improved alignment of academic instruction and workforce skills and access to hands-on learning;

- 🍎 **Post-Secondary Readiness** concentrating on growing student preparation, access and completion in post-secondary options; and the
- 🍎 **Herbert S. Walter Fund** engaged in providing funds for teacher professional development, recognition and appreciation.

To date, through the leadership efforts of Anderson L Smith, the HC\*EXCELL Board of Directors and the generosity of our contributors and partners approximately, \$1.1 million of the \$1.3 million has been committed. Initial work of the SUCCESS initiative resulted in the following:

### **Ready by 6**

- Completion and publishing of the **Morristown Hamblen Ready by 6** five year strategic plan to increase the number of children entering school ready for success.   
HC\*EXCELL President, Mike Fishman, presented the **Morristown Hamblen Ready by 6** plan to sponsors and hosted a Board press conference to announce its release.
- Beginning June 10, 2017, the Citizen Tribune published a series of 5 articles on the Strategic Plan and the need for community collaboration to increase the number of Hamblen County children entering school prepared for **SUCCESS**.
- A **Ready by 6** Advisory Council was formed to implement the strategic plan. The Council includes former Steering Committee Members and other community school readiness stakeholders. Co-Chairs for 3 of the 4 areas have been chosen (**Early Learning, Financial Stability, and Health Equity**). Co-chairs are recruiting committee members with knowledge in their area of focus. The individual committees will begin developing one page tips on their subject matter to be distributed to the community. Additionally, work has started on developing a plan for instructing and informing professionals and general public about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).
- HC\*EXCELL Board Member, James Craine, chaired an exploratory committee to form and transition the Hamblen County Imagination Library program, currently facilitated by HC\*EXCELL, to a community Advisory Council

**Public Involvement, Public Education, Public Benefit**

co-chaired by an appointed President and a program coordinator who is a staff member of the Morristown Hamblen Library. Transition is scheduled to take place on December 1, 2017.

**Arts Build Skills, (ABS)**

During the past year HC\*EXCELL:



- Convened an art stakeholder **ABS** Steering Committee, hired an **ABS** Coordinator (Deb Miksa), partnered with Hamblen County School System to develop Art Committees at each of the system’s 11 elementary schools and sponsored 3 **ABS** pilot programs.

- Hosted and facilitated a pilot art

integration teacher workshop and 6 school student and teacher art trainings.

- Partnered with the Hamblen County School System and community art organizations to host the first elementary **ABS Day of the Arts**.
- Sponsored Meadowview and Lincoln Heights Middle School Arts, Industry & Business Pilot Program led by Kerry Stacy and Edgar Cloud. Art teachers partnered with industry representatives to develop themes for student produced artwork which was then displayed at 6 industries/businesses and WSCC.
- **ABS** coordinator worked with Committee member Bob Spirko to develop an elementary system-wide arts integration workshop to be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at Meadowview Middle School.
- Began work on an **ABS** Strategic Plan which they planned to publish by the end of the year.

**Workforce and Leadership Development**

Programming to expose students to workforce development and develop leadership skills.

**Junior Achievement BizTown (JA BizTown)** In 2007, Entrepreneur Don Rogers, of Rogers Petroleum, Inc., asked HC\*EXCELL to facilitate and expand a Junior Achievement program in Hamblen County Schools. Rogers sponsored the first year with the Rotary Club of Morristown A.M. joining his efforts in 2008. In 2010 HC\*EXCELL facilitated the first JA BizTown. The program includes twelve classroom sessions taught by fifth grade teachers and an onsite daylong applied skills experience at the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee BizTown Center in Clinton, TN.

- In 2016-2017 over 800 Hamblen County fifth grade students, 40 plus



teachers and in excess of 150 volunteers participated in Junior Achievement’s BizTown.

- HC\*EXCELL assisted Junior Achievement of East Tennessee (JA) in linking with MAHLE to establish a middle school program and to recruit volunteers for It’s My Future and JA Economics for Success at East Ridge and Westview Middle Schools.
- Additionally, HC\*EXCELL assisted in recruiting and providing volunteers to teach pilot Personal Finance classes at Morristown Hamblen East for the 2017-2018 school year.

**Teen Leadership**

In 2007, Tuff Torq Corporation established the \$50,000 Yasuyuki Yamaoka High School Leadership fellowship. Part of the funding was used to transition the Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) High School Leadership program from an afterschool program into graded curriculum courses at Morristown East and West High Schools. The rest of the funding helped build and support curriculum courses to prepare student leaders through the Flippen curriculum. Through a partnership of Tuff Torq, HC\*EXCELL, MACC, and the Hamblen County Board of Education, teachers were trained and certified at both Morristown Hamblen East and West.



**Post-Secondary Readiness**

- Facilitated Tuff Torq Yamaoka Scholarships - established by Dr. Kojiro Yamaoka, Chairman Tuff Torq Corporation, at the plant dedication on 4/20/90. This scholarship provides \$2,000 a year to a graduating senior from both Morristown Hamblen East and West High Schools.
- Provided \$11,000 to Hamblen County School System to support the system’s Advance Placement (AP) student assessment incentive program and purchased Adobe Cloud Art Software for Morristown Hamblen East and West High Schools AP art programs.

**tnAchieves** – In 2011, HC\*EXCELL convened community stakeholders to support post-secondary access and success through becoming a **tnAchieves** partner. In 2015, **tnAchieves** became **Tennessee Promise**. Tennessee Promise offers last dollar community or technical college funding to every Tennessee High School graduate. Ultimately, **Tennessee Promise** eliminates the tuition and mandatory fee burden associated with post-secondary completion for students immediately following high school graduation. **TN Promise** is facilitated by the County Mayor and his Advisory Councils.

HC\*EXCELL participates as a member of the Hamblen County Advisory Council and helps recruit mentors.

**Complete Tennessee** launched in September 2016, is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 education advocacy organization focused on increasing postsecondary access and completion in Tennessee. **Complete Tennessee** believes every Tennessean deserves the opportunity to earn a postsecondary degree or certificate that leads to increased economic mobility, community engagement and a better quality of life. The current HC\*EXCELL Executive Director represents East Tennessee on the Steering Committee and is currently working with Walters State Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Morristown and the community to develop a plan for increasing Hamblen County's workforce with postsecondary degrees and/or certifications.

**Herbert S Walters Educator Fund** provided \$10,000 to the Hamblen County School System for professional development during the 2016-2017 school year.

- Presented \$1,740 in Teacher of the Year (TOY) awards to recognize teacher dedication and excellence.
- Partnered with Morristown Utilities on three billboards and cable time to promote recognition of the 2016-2017 TOYs.
- Invited all school TOY's as HC\*EXCELL guests to education banquet.
- Provided \$800 for National Board Professional Teacher stipends.
- Delivered educator appreciation gifts during year and at in-service.

**Hamblen County District Teachers of the Year (TOYs)** are selected for their instructional excellence and dedication to Hamblen County students.

HC\*EXCELL awards \$500 to each category level **TOY**. The 2017 Hamblen County **Teachers of the Year** are: PreK-4, Natasha Henson, Russellville; Grades 5-8, Sarah Cooper, Fairview Marguerite; and Grades 9-12, Hannah Lane, West High School.

**National Board Professional Teacher Standards (NBPTC)** HC\*EXCELL supports professional teacher development by providing funding in partnership with the State of Tennessee and Hamblen County Board of Education for **National Board Certification**. NBPTC is a rigorous assessment of high quality teaching. Teachers who obtain certification are among the most proficient in their field. 017 Hamblen County NBPTC teachers are: Dr. Rebecca Drinnon, Morristown Hamblen West High School, Suzanne Romines Mills, Morristown East High School, and Dr. Christy Walker, Manley Elementary. HC\*EXCELL provides grant funding for National Board Certification and a check for \$500 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.

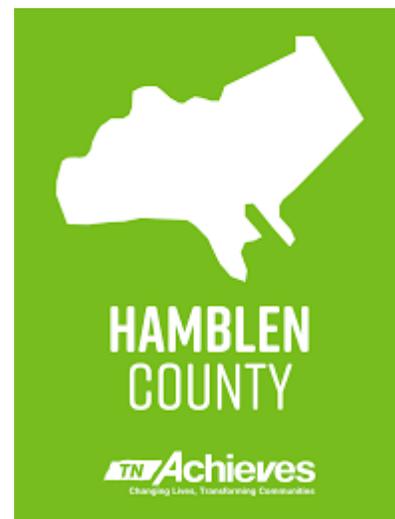
## Volunteer and Mentorship Opportunities

*The JA BizTown program, tAchieves/TN Promise and Arts Build Skills offer volunteer and mentoring opportunities. If you are interested in being a volunteer or mentor, please contact:*

Linda Ketner (423) 581-5334 [office@hcexcell.org](mailto:office@hcexcell.org)

or Stan Harville (423) 312-3676 [ed@hcexcell.org](mailto:ed@hcexcell.org)

The foundation's work is made possible by generous and visionary community benefactors; area, state and national foundations; local organizations and governments who are supporting the HC\*EXCELL **SUCCESS** campaign. This initiative engages the community in strengthening our students' preschool readiness, critical thinking, problem solving skills, leadership skills and postsecondary access and completion thus improving their preparation work and life.



We exist to increase higher education opportunities for Tennessee high school students by providing last-dollar scholarships with mentor guidance.

