

THE CENTURIAN

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Governor Ralph Northam Announces Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance to Build Wind Energy Workforce in Virginia Dr. Damika Howard-Wayne



Governor Ralph Northam today announced the formation of Virginia's first offshore and onshore wind workforce training collaborative, the Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance. The program will offer industry required certifications that are critical to the operations and long-term maintenance of wind projects. The Governor made the announcement addressing the 2020 Offshore WINDPOWER Virtual Summit hosted by the American Wind Energy Association.

The New College Institute, which will serve as the host institution, is joining forces with Centura College and the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy to create the Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance (the Alliance). This partnership will bring courses certified by the Global Wind Organization and National Center for Construction, Education, and Research wind technician training to onshore and offshore wind projects to Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Building a strong wind energy workforce will give the Commonwealth a significant competitive advantage in attracting onshore and offshore wind projects," said Governor Northam. "There is currently massive potential for offshore wind up and down the East Coast, and we look forward to working with our partners across Virginia and in neighboring states to grow this industry

and reap the tremendous economic benefits for our communities, especially those that have been historically disadvantaged."

The Alliance represents an important first step in what will be a much larger workforce development effort to support the renewable energy industries in Virginia. Course offerings will span a wide variety of wind energy related disciplines and provide students with a customizable portfolio of training options. Programs will range from specific certifications to a year-long wind turbine technician program that bundles several industry-recognized certifications and prepares students to serve as certified installation technicians, inspectors, and maintenance technicians.

"Virginia is actively working to welcome new and expanding business in the offshore and onshore wind sector," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. "These companies require a skilled workforce to reach their highest potential, and fortunately, because of our deep maritime roots, that workforce is here."

The wind industry in the United States continues to experience exponential growth, supporting 120,000 American jobs in 2019, according to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). The AWEA also estimates that the wind industry has invested more than \$208 billion in wind projects across the country with the capacity to produce at least 109 gigawatts of power to date. Dominion Energy and Avangrid Renewables have nearly 400 offshore wind turbines under development off the coast of Virginia and North Carolina.

"Clean energy jobs in construction and operations will serve as a catalyst for delivering clean, renewable energy to the Commonwealth," said Josh Bennett, Vice President of Offshore Wind for Dominion Energy. "The formation of the Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance is a critical step to developing a talented offshore wind workforce here in Virginia."

"As Avangrid Renewables builds the future of clean energy offshore, establishing the workforce that will maintain and operate these projects for decades will be critical," said Eric Thumma, Interim Vice President of Offshore Wind for Avangrid Renewables. "The Mid-Atlantic Wind Training Alliance will facilitate the development of that workforce and the success of the offshore wind industry."

"Virginia is taking important steps forward in harnessing the significant economic and job opportunities of American wind power," said Tom Kiernan, American Wind Energy Association CEO. "Wind turbine technicians are America's fastest growing career and today's foresighted move to train additional workers in this field shows that the Commonwealth continues to lead our nation toward a cleaner and more prosperous energy future."

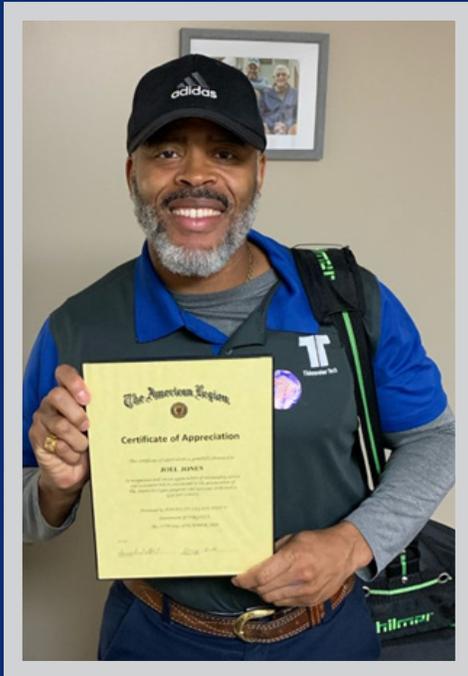
Located in Martinsville Va, the New College Institute is a Commonwealth Higher Education Center that partners with industry and academia to provide post-secondary education, industry relevant workforce development and training opportunities in cutting-edge industries.

Centura College has seven education centers across eastern Virginia, including Tidewater Tech, which is home to the largest welding training center in the Commonwealth, with 100 welding booths. Centura is also parent to the Aviation Institute of Maintenance, which has 13 aviation technician training centers nationwide and focuses on the repair and maintenance of aircraft including engineering fiberglass and composites.

Located in Norfolk, the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) is the largest training center for United States Coast Guard (USCG) certifications on the East Coast. MAMA is certified by the USCG to teach 90 deck and engineering courses that are critical to the safe operation of the United States commercial fleet.

Tidewater Tech Supports The American Legion

Images supplied by Dr. Damika Howard-Wayne



After working with instructors, students pose for a picture with their American Legion Certificate of Appreciation. Tidewater Tech students are working with their instructors to help solve some refrigeration issues over at The American Legion.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Information on American Legions website (www.legion.org/mission)

“...the nation's largest wartime veteran's service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities...”

Richmond Campus Holds Emergency Food Drive

During Pandemic Kelvin Lee



At the pandemic's height, so many resources were being exhausted due to so many people in need. Some schools were implementing virtual classes or a combination of hybrid/online classes. Here at Centura College Richmond, we were glad to be able to provide a variety of online courses and labs on campus, all the while complying with state guidelines and social distancing policies to keep our faculty and our students safe. Our staff and faculty wanted to assist those in our community who were struggling with the enormous demand for food donations. We knew with a small number of students on campus that our donations would be limited.

The students did what they could to bring small contributions to our emergency food drive. Our staff also contributed. The outpouring was phenomenal considering the short notice. The Chesterfield Food Bank was being bombarded by residents who needed food, and we gladly chose to provide our donations. This incredible organization provides nourishment to the needy and assists individuals with resume preparation and those seeking employment.

I had the great opportunity to meet Ms. Kim Hill, CEO of the Chesterfield Food Bank, to discuss her organization. I informed her that I heard so many great things about her organization and how they provide so much more than food and that Centura College wanted to help during this challenging time. She was excited to receive our donations and gave me a brief tour of the facility. Ms. Hill informed me of the many great organizations and agencies that do a great job feeding the hungry. However, there are so many residents in the Chesterfield area that cannot get assistance. She started the Chesterfield Field Food Bank in 2012 to fight for those that go hungry.

Mr. English Clothing Closet

Dr. Damika Howard-Wayne



DARRION WILLIAMS

Darrion Williams enrolled in BMR in August of 2020. He stated he desired to enhance his looks as well as his attire. He started attending the Professional Development class given here at Tidewater Tech. Our Student Service Coordinator introduced him to our "English Closet" located in our Veterans Center. His eyes and smile (shown in the picture) lit up as he began to look through the closet of the many professional suits, shirts, ties, shoes, sweaters, slacks, and sports jackets donated from Mr. Joel English's father and family. Darrion has job interviews lined up, and we are awaiting the great news.

When you think of a clothing closet, you think of hand-me-downs. No one stops to consider if the items they are now wearing have had a story to tell. When students come in to the newly opened clothing closet at Tidewater Tech to see what is inside, they leave with a little more push because they know that these clothes were worn by a hardworking man who was once in their shoes. The English clothing closet resides in the Veteran Center at Tidewater Tech.

When Mr. English passed away, Dr. Joel English went through his father's closet and saved the best dress clothes for the students at Tidewater Tech. He thought, what more fitting way to pay tribute to his father. To leave the world literally with the shirts off his back (and suits and ties). They were given to veterans at Tidewater Tech who have learned a new trade like welding and machining—two of his specialties in the Navy and in rehab services at the VA. The students are now moving on to interview with companies to become employed in a skilled trade.

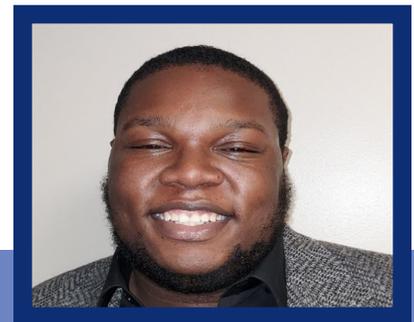
Who is Mr. English?

Mr. Clarence English was a Navy veteran of 28 years. He spent a second career working at the VA hospital as a Manual Arts Therapist, teaching Machine Shop, which he learned as a sailor. He finally became an administrator of Rehabilitation Therapy before he retired from the VA. Mr. English spent five decades serving veterans, helping them rehabilitate their lives, and helping them become better functioning members of society.

Our mission here at Tidewater Tech, along with Mr. English's Clothing Closet, is to help the most vulnerable among us to reclaim their dignity, rekindle their optimism, and empower their lives. Mrs. Paula Massey, CED, believes everyone is capable of growth. The path to personal transformation can start with just a token of love and understanding.

Of course, Mr. English's son is no other than Dr. Joel English, Executive Vice President. Dr. English followed his father's footsteps to some extent—being a teacher and then administrator, and leading an organization that helps people improve their lives through occupational development.

Your clothes can reflect and affect your mood, health, and overall confidence. There is even a term for that phenomenon: "encloded cognition," a fusion of "the symbolic meaning of the clothes and the physical experience of wearing them," according to Hajo Adam and Adam D. Galinsky, the researchers who coined the phrase in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.



OBAHDYAH YASHAALHA

Obahdyah Yashaalha enrolled into BMR in August of 2020. This young man has big dreams and visions to take this trade experience and excel. He also took the Professional Development course here at Tidewater Tech. Obahdyah was also taken into the "English Closet" and was allowed to pick what he would like to wear to his job interviews. As he placed the sports jacket on, he began to groove. His whole body took on the legacy of Mr. Clarence English as his walk changed as well as his words. He began to feel important and that of prestige. In his words, "I'm Unstoppable".

For those veterans experiencing homelessness, the repercussions of encloded cognition can be life changing. The increased self-esteem that flows from wearing clean and comfortable high-quality clothes can open the doors to employment and housing opportunities.

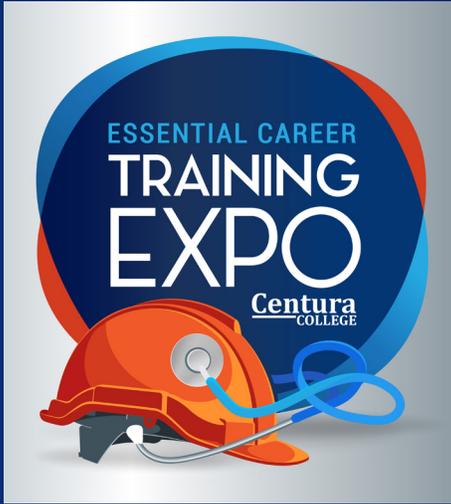
Obahdyah's spirit has definitely progressed along with his effort. His energy in the hallways and communication has skyrocketed.

We all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We try to do our part by providing clothing in a safe, humane, and dignified way.

“Your clothes can reflect and affect your mood, health, and overall confidence.”

Dr. Damika Howard-Wayne

Centura College Hosts 2020 Essential Career Training Expo Jul DeGeus



On Thursday, November 12, Centura College invited the community to attend their Essential Career Training Expo. This event will give attendees the opportunity to learn about our career-focused training in fields that have proven to be essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. Expo attendees will have their Centura College standard application fee waived and program guidance was provided by admissions. Financial aid and career services teams were onsite to help answer questions during the event.

This year, the U.S. experienced the suspension of "non-essential" career markets to decelerate the circulation of COVID-19. With this deferral, select occupations were declared essential workers, or those who perform services that are

essential to continue vital foundation operations in communities, cities, and states. Some of Virginia's essential businesses have included allied health and trades-focused industries such as health care or medical services, industrial manufacturing and home improvement facilities.

Centura College offers training in the following career fields: Wind Turbine Technician, Construction Electrician, Medical Assisting, Combination Welding, Business Management, Operations Management, Massage Therapy, CDL Class A Truck Driving, Carpentry, Dental Assisting, Medical Billing and Coding, Biomedical Equipment Technology, Allied Health Management and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Not all programs are offered at all locations.

Centura College to Train Wind Turbine Technicians Jul DeGeus

Dr. Mike Lanouette of Centura College and Captain Ed Nanartowich of Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) signed a partnership agreement to address the upcoming need for wind turbine technicians in Southeastern Virginia. The Virginia coast is slated for development of the largest ocean-based wind farm in the United States. Foundations for the first two 6-megawatt wind turbines were installed in May and operation is scheduled to begin by late 2020. The maintenance and operation of the turbine equipment will require trained technicians.

Centura College and Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy were the first education systems in Virginia to answer the call to develop and implement an accredited Wind Turbine Technician program. The program was designed with the guidelines of the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and the Department of Labor. Dr. Lanouette has this to say about the partnership, "Centura College is very excited to partner with Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy. This collaboration shows the advantage and incredible value of both of our skill-based training intuitions. We have been receiving communications weekly from state and national representatives who are impressed that we have produced a one-of-a-kind industry standard program and partnership to meet the needs of the renewable energy field so quickly."

Centura College will offer three wind turbine specific certifications within the program and MAMA will offer six US Coast Guard approved or Global Wind Association approved courses, aggregating in a seamless skill-based training program for students. Ed Nanartowich goes on to say, "The collective expertise and cooperation between Centura College and Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy will significantly promote the acceleration of Global Wind Organization certified training. This places Hampton Roads right in the middle of a significant growth industry and can only bode well for the economic growth of Virginia."

The two wind turbines in progress now are just the beginning. The full scope of the project will be determined by site conditions, but it is estimated that there will be 180 wind turbines in a larger scale commercial wind farm in the 112,800-acre lease area off the coast. "Within the next four years, the Wind Energy industry will be booming in Hampton Roads. With almost 200 wind turbines scheduled to be installed offshore, we will have a need for many turbine installers, inspectors, and maintenance technicians. Centura College is making sure that we have trained and certified technicians to serve the industry's need as wind energy comes to town," says Dr. Joel English, Executive Vice President of Centura College.



DR. MIKE LANOUILLE OF CENTURA COLLEGE (LEFT) AND CAPTAIN ED NANARTOWICH OF MID-ATLANTIC MARITIME ACADEMY (RIGHT).

Richmond Implements Drive-Up Medical Training Lab Kelvin Lee



At Centura, the Richmond campus was adjusting to hybrid online/on-campus training. Some students were just about to complete phlebotomy and EKG training before the COVID-19 virus outbreak occurred and placed this training on hold. Another obstacle we encountered were the restrictions in place during this time, limiting the number of students on campus and in class. We needed to think of a plan quickly to allow our students to complete their required training and keep our staff and students safe. We discussed several ideas, and decided to implement a drive-up medical training lab for our students. The students could remain safely in their vehicles while maintaining social distance and completing their required training.

We decided to utilize our outdoor welding lab, thanks to Mr. Jerome Dendler (Welding Coordinator), who was eager to help. Dr. Yasmin Kandeh (Medical Assistant Coordinator) quickly transformed the welding lab into a medical lab. We even joked with Mr. Dendler how it resembled a M.A.S.H. (Medical Army Surgical Hospital) unit because of his 20 plus years and counting of Army military service. The students also gained a newfound perspective of what the frontline medical nurses and doctors experienced firsthand during this crisis. Students could don personal protective equipment and adhere to all the policies and procedures expected as if they were working a real pandemic.

Kudos to our Medical Assistant students that were resilient and eager to complete their training despite the ongoing circumstances of this pandemic. Students drove up for temperature checks and began to complete eight stations ranging from proper disposal of medical supplies, conducting temperature checks to practicing phlebotomy sticks on the venous training arm. It was a great success for our students here at Centura College Richmond. Regardless of the obstacles presented, they were determined to complete their required training.



VERY PROUD OF OUR PROFESSIONALS

BAILEY, AMY	GREENBRIER OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY PC	MEAD, MELISSA	SENTARA HEALTHCARE
BANG, JAEL	MESSAGE ENVY HARBOURVIEW	MILLER, TRAVIS	SOUTHERN STATES - TIDEWATER PETROLEUM
BARHAM, NAKYRA	THE CITADEL	MITCHELL, DIAMOND	SENTARA RIVERWALK FAMILY PRACTICE
BELL, CANDICE	ADULT & PEDIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATES	MULLEN, KELLY	DR. MELISSA BURKLEY, OPTOMETRIST
BENNETT, BROOKLYNN	OCTAPharma PLASMA INC.	NEWKIRK, NAJADA J	EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL EAR, NOSE, THROAT SPECIALISTS
BERNARD, SAMANTHA	CORNERSTONE PRIVATE PRACTICE	OUTEN, AREEYA	WESTERN BRANCH CHIROPRACTIC
BOND, ANGEL	LIKE BRAND NEW CLEANING SERVICE	PEMBERTON, CHARMONIQUE	HAMPTON ROADS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
BOYKINS, JASMIN	SENTARA VASCULAR SPECIALIST	PHELPS, XAVIER	MIL-SPEC ABRASIVES LLC
BRAXTON, ALLISHA	TPMG OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY	POOLE, TRACIE	TIDEWATER WOMEN HEALTH CLINIC
BROWN, JEFFREY D	LIFE PROTECT 24/7	PURVIS, NICHOLAS	NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL
BUCHANAN, ALVA	HAND & STONE SPA - LANDSTOWNE	QUIDLEY, TAMICA	GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
CALDERON, DIONTE	COLONNA'S SHIPYARD	RICHARDSON, IVORY	SENTARA ENDOCRINOLOGY SPECIALIST
CARTER, RYAN	PRECISE AUTO CARE LLC	RIDDICK, ANTHONY	INDOOR AIR SYSTEMS
COTTON, ASHLEY	SIMSTAFF	RIDDICK, DESJA	RITE AID
DIAZ, TYRINA	POSITIVE RESULTS BILLING	RIDDICK, JAYSIAH	SENTARA HEALTHCARE
DURHAM, LISA	INDIAN RIVER RETIREMENT COMMUNITY	ROLLICK, COURTNEY	VINDECARE
ELLIS, IVORY	OCTAPharma PLASMA INC.	ROMAN, GIOVANNI	VALENTINE CONSTRUCTION
EVANS, TREVOR	CHESAPEAKE BAY STEEL	SCHROEDER, CARLIE	A TIDEWATER WOMEN'S HEALTH & LGBT PRIMAR
FARRONE, DUVON	MICHAEL & SON	SHOULDERS, RANDELLE	SHOULDERS & SON
FELTON, SHEANEAQUA	FAMILY AND INTERNAL MEDICAL CENTER	SHOUP, TOMMY	GRYPHON TECHNOLOGIES
FERGUSON, KIMBERLY	HEALTHFIRST CHIROPRACTIC AND REHAB	SIMMONS, LENORA	THE CROSSINGS AT HARBOUR VIEW
FIZER, CONNER	INDUSTRIAL ALLOY WELDING	SIMMONS, LENORA	UROLOGY OF VIRGINIA
FRENCH, BRANDY M	HEALING HANDS CLINIC	SINGLETARY-HOLMAN, JORDAN	CRAIBERLY ENTERPRISES, INC
GANDY, TYRELL	TRI-STAR ELECTRIC INC	SONS, KRYSYAL	MESSAGE ENVY-LOEHMANN'S PLAZA
GLENN, TESHARA	TIDEWATER PEDIATRIC CONSULTANTS	STERN-SINES, TRACIE	THE CURVY FLIPPER
GRIFFIN, CRITINA	ACCORDIUS HEALTH BAY POINTS	STRAWTER, KEYANA	HEALTHFIRST CHIROPRACTIC AND REHAB
HILL, AMBER	GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER	SUA, CHASTITY	BODY LOGIC CHIROPRACTIC AND MASSAGE THER
HOLMAN, LATONYA	MID ATLANTIC DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES	THOMAS, MEA L	KEMPSVILLE CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
HUNTER, TAKIE	WINE AND UNWIND DAY SPA	THOMAS, SHALONDA	MESSAGE ENVY
IAFRATO, ANNABEL	M. T. CURRY INC.	TOY, CAITLYN	BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY PRACTICE
JACKSON, TARESHIA	MCKENZIE HASTING INSTITUTE	WEBB, LACHELLE	POSITIVE RESULTS BILLING
JOHNSON, MONICA	CHKD OAKBROOKE	WESTHOFF, CALEIGH	ATLANTIC FAMILY DENTISTRY
JOHNSON, WAYNE	INTEGRITY STAFFING	WHITAKER, CHEAVONYA	OCTAPharma PLASMA INC.
JONES, III, SAM	HAND AND STONE	WHITE, TRASHONNAH	BRESCIA & MIGLIACCIO
JONES, STERLING	SENTARA HEALTHCARE	WHITFIELD-COLEY, AEJA	GREENBRIER OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY PC
KING, FREDERICK	GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INSURANCE - GEICO	WILLIAMS, AUJAI	CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL SURGICAL SPECIALIST
LIMBO, CHRIZAR	EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL EAR, NOSE, THROAT SPECIALISTS	WILLIAMS, CHRISTIAN	HALL MAZDA
LOFGREN, JACQUELINE	SENTARA VASCULAR SPECIALIST	WILLIAMS, RASHEEDAH	OCTAPharma PLASMA INC.
LOUIS, ANGIE	THE MEMORY CENTER	WILSON, COREY	WILSON CAR DETAILING & PRESSURE WASHING
MALYSZKA, MEGAN	REFRESH CLEANING	WITHERS, ANTOMEA	SENTARA INTERNAL MEDICINE
MANIGO, TAVIN	MICHAEL & SON	WORTHEN, RAVEN	QUEST DIAGNOSTICS (MEDXIM)
MAYES, MARQUIE L	L 3 HARRIS	WYCHE, STACY	DR. COLLIN HANY
MCMICKLE, JENNIFER	OCTAPharma PLASMA INC.	YOUNG, CHELSEY	SMOC - SPORTS MEDICINE & ORTHOPEDIC CENT

Centura College Hosts Virtual Graduation Jul DeGeus



This year's pandemic brought with it the realization of essential workers; crucial operations and service employees who continue to work during state shutdowns. Centura College offers training in some of these essential career paths and Saturday, December 5th, Centura College's Chesapeake campus held a virtual graduation to honor the individuals who have graduated into the workforce. This platform has allowed students to celebrate their accomplishment with their loved

ones without having to worry about mandated CDC guidelines.

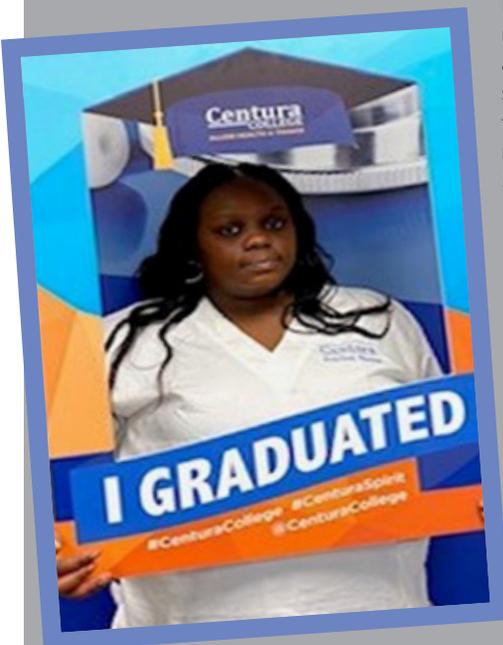
Centura Chesapeake offers allied health and skilled trades training in medical assisting, massage therapy, business management and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). The programs are designed to prepare students for entry-level employment within the industry of their choice. The school also provides opportunities for students to complete and obtain

program specific certifications. Centura College works to deliver students educational training that will empower them to excel in their career while providing the community an essential worker.

The virtual graduation featured keynote speakers John Allen Amos Jr. and Aaron Roosevelt Rouse. Mr. Amos Jr. is an American actor known for his work on films such as Coming to America and Die Hard 2 and will be reprising the role of Cleo McDowell in the 2021 release of Coming 2 America. Mr. Rouse is a former player in the National Football League and is currently serving as Councilmember at Large for the City of Virginia Beach.

"Recently we decided that having a virtual graduation ceremony would be best due to the ongoing pandemic," said Centura College Chesapeake's Campus Executive Director Michael Bragg. "However, the staff and I felt we needed to make up for not having a traditional graduation. So, we decided to surprise the graduates with something big and exciting. With many thanks directed to our Graduation Committee co-chairs, Jennifer Oliver and Dr. Michael Godfrey, we were able to secure John Allen Amos Jr. and Aaron Roosevelt Rouse as the two keynote graduation speakers."

From Penn Foster to Centura College Graduate Kelvin Lee



Here at Centura College Richmond Campus, we meet students that come into our campus full of ambition and know exactly what they want. This student is no exception. Ms. Deja White wished to attend our Penn Foster Program and told us in no uncertain terms that she wanted to become a Medical Assistant. We explained to her that once she graduates from the Penn Foster Program, she could enroll in our Medical Assistant Program, and she was excited to begin. Four months later, she completed the Penn Foster program, obtaining her high school diploma.

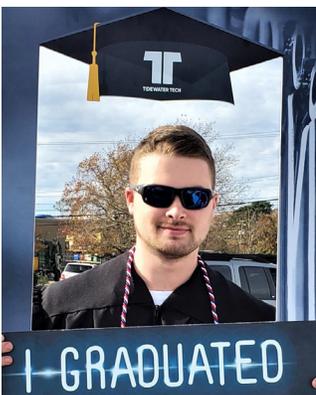
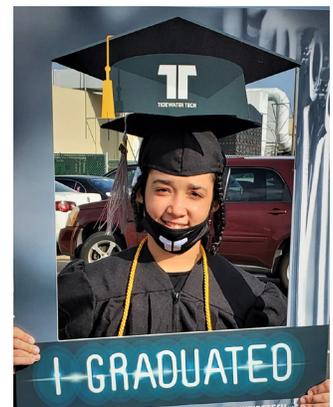
The next chapter would begin for Deja by enrolling in our Medical Assistant program. Deja was determined to complete the program. However, she had concerns like other students, especially during the pandemic. She showed remarkable resilience in the middle of moving to a new residence, attending school, and taking care of her family during this time. Some students were reluctant to participate in our

hybrid training that was implemented on campus during the height of this pandemic. However, Ms. White showed passion and excellent leadership during this time, and I believe she encouraged other students to participate in these designed classes.

I am proud to say that Ms. White completed the Medical Assistant program with an excellent G.P.A, and is currently employed as a professional. While on her externship, she did such a great job that her soon to be employer took note. For an individual to go from having no high school diploma, to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant and a Medical Assistant in a matter of two years, proves anything is possible with hard work. Ms. Deja White is a prime example of how dedication and coming to school every day can pay off for anyone who is persistent and works hard. We extend our congratulations to Ms. Deja White for achieving this great goal.

Tidewater Tech Graduation Car-emony

Dr. Damika Howard-Wayne



“...it was nice that they created something for the students to feel like they participated in some kind of normalcy.”

Joseph Dunn

With the pandemic putting a pause on in-person graduation ceremonies, the Tidewater Tech Trades team had a creative solution. Instead of the traditional ceremony, parents, students, and teachers lined the campus for a Drive-Thru graduation ceremony.

Graduates got the chance to walk across an outdoor stage and have a professional photo taken to capture the moment with the school campus Executive Director, Paula Massey, their coordinators, and the administration team as they received their diplomas. Approximately 70 graduates lined up in their cars with their families outside the campus to participate in the first Drive-Thru Commencement Ceremony of 2020.

Graduates were encouraged to decorate their vehicles for the ceremony.

“I wanted to participate in this caravan because it’s a difficult time this year and I thought that it was nice that they created something for the students to feel like they participated in some kind of normalcy,” said grad Joseph Dunn. Students from all four programs were invited to attend the ceremony.

The fall and spring graduates exited their cars in their caps and gowns and danced to the stage while DJ Miles played live music for the families and friends to jam to as they received their award. All along the route, Tidewater Tech faculty and staff cheered them on with signs and noisemakers.

The graduation was such a success; the students asked if we will do this every graduation.