

THE CENTURIAN

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Waking Up To Social Justice Press Release



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, JOEL ENGLISH, INTRODUCES A PLEDGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHIN OUR INSTITUTIONS.

A Pledge from the Leadership of Centura College, Aviation Institute of Maintenance and Tidewater Tech:

A statement from Benjamin Franklin, borrowed from ancient Greek wisdom, has been quoted quite often lately: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." That statement hits home with me in the wake of the George Floyd murder, as it says to me personally: Joel, if you are not just as outraged at acts of violence and systematic racism as an African American would be, then you're sleeping through one of the most importance crises of American history.

It's time to wake up.

I recently watched a program called "Into an American Uprising: White Accountability," which featured Tim Wise, a lecturer and author of several books that fight racism in America. Wise discussed the seemingly constant start-and-stop of race reform in our country, often sparked by a tragic killing of a person of color resulting in a temporary collective outcry, but then followed by distraction and forgetfulness. Wise said, "You have that moment where you wake up. But then too often, you just hit that snooze button and you go back to bed.... I'm hoping, especially because all of this is happening against the backdrop of the disparate racial impact of COVID-19, rather than hitting the snooze button for the 11th or 12th time,

we are finally gonna get out of bed."
It's time to wake up.

I cannot know whether the tragic killing of George Floyd will be an authentic beginning to true revolutionary change throughout our country, or whether it will end in another cycle of dozing off at the wheel. But I can tell you that for me, for my family, and for our institutions—Centura College, Aviation Institute of Maintenance, and Tidewater Tech—we will not hit the snooze button. Within our institutions, I pledge:

- *We stand against racism in every form.*
- *We actively promote opportunity and prosperity equally among all races, genders, orientations, and identities.*
- *We do not tolerate speech or action that harbors hatred or antagonism between groups of people.*
- *We take practical steps toward inclusive relationships within our organization and throughout the community.*

In early June, a group of leaders at our Home Office met to have an open discussion about how we can deliberately incorporate racial inclusion, celebration of diversity, and building of cross-cultural relationship into our conscious livelihood. We know, without a shadow of a doubt, that diversity is one of our school characteristics that makes us great. All of our campuses demonstrate not only a rainbow of races and cultures within our student body, but we are also blessed with diversity within our faculty and staff at every level.

To celebrate and improve upon this environment of inclusion, our leaders pledged to develop ongoing conversation about inclusion and cross-cultural ▼ **Continue on next page.**

Waking Up To Social Justice, Continued

Press Release

relationship as a part of our ongoing process. This group is currently developing a webinar series, led by female and male African American, Hispanic, and Caucasian leaders at our Home Office, entitled "Diversity, Inclusion, Relationship: A Conversation with Institutional Leadership." I have asked every faculty and staff member in our institution to sign up for one of these conversations to discuss diversity and inclusion as one of our most important attributes within our educational process, and as one of our most important assets with which we can educate tomorrow's workforce as we grow together as a work family. One of the goals of these conversations is to get our staff's ideas on how we can make sure that this time in American history is transformational for us, and that we never fall back to sleep.

On March 31, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered an address at the National Cathedral in Washington, and I believe he was speaking directly to us today about sleep. Dr. King told the tale of Rip Van Winkle, who walked up a mountain and slept for twenty years—indeed, a full generation—while the world went on without him. Dr. King said:

"The most striking thing about the story of Rip Van Winkle is not merely that Rip slept twenty years, but that he slept through a revolution. While he was peacefully snoring up in the mountain, a revolution was taking place that at points would change the course of history.... And one of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands. They end up sleeping through a revolution."

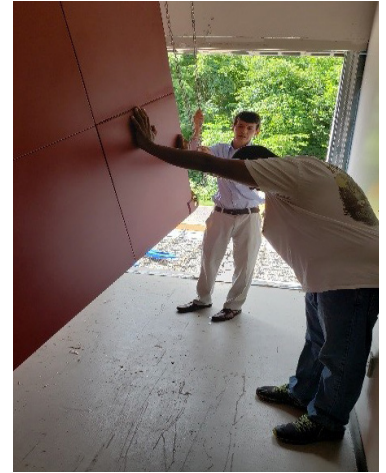
Within our institution, we will not sleep. We are committed to fully incorporating diversity, inclusion, and relationship into our conscious daily lives, not just our quiet, unspoken thoughts. We will be an outspoken mecca of racial harmony, not just a quiet place where we do good work together. I believe our country needs to embrace our collective outrage toward social injustice and systematic racism, and use that outrage productively to demand a better country. And with twenty campuses around the country, I believe we can have a strong impact, not only for our staff, faculty, and students, but also for our communities throughout America. It's time to wake up and not fall back to sleep again.

Boss's Day at Centura Richmond

Centura Richmond



ROB OPERATING FORKLIFT AND HELPING LIFT AND MOVE FURNITURE



FACULTY AND STAFF STAND IN LOBBY TO GREET
CAMPUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROB JONES



The Merriam-Webster dictionary describes a boss as "one who directs or supervises workers." On Wednesday, October 16, 2019, we recognized Boss's Day, and we wanted to acknowledge our Campus Executive Director – Rob Jones. Rob is more than a person who "directs or supervises

he arrived from our adjacent building next door to discover we had quickly gathered in the reception area.

**“We’re very proud to
recognize Rob
for Boss’s Day...”**

workers.” We wanted to show our gratitude for his leadership.

We planned a surprise luncheon, and you can't go wrong with his favorite barbecue from Mission BBQ and all the fixings. Rob was surprised when

Faculty and staff had contributed to, planned and participated in the luncheon and had all signed a heartfelt thank you card ready and waiting for Rob. Fridays see less traffic on campus, so we decided this would be an excellent day to recognize our Campus Executive Director. Since arriving at the college, Rob has faced unique challenges with our curriculum, incorporating Trades programs with our existing Allied Health program. Combined with the half-million-dollar renovation of our campus, Rob has weathered the storm since he arrived in 2018. Rob is not afraid to get his hands dirty, whether moving furniture or moving pallets on a forklift. We're very proud to recognize Rob for Boss's Day and hope to have additional celebrations in the future.

Tidewater Tech Offers Distance Learning Jul DeGeus



In these unique times of uncertainty, Tidewater Tech has adjusted their educational training to provide students with online distance learning. This temporary shift in curriculum enables students to safely practice social distancing without discontinuing their educational journey.

Tidewater Tech is a career training school that specializes in essential trade vocations including:

- Combination Welding
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Auto Technician
- Building Maintenance and Repair

Administrators and campus leadership have worked tirelessly to create a strategy that will enable learners to continue their schooling while being provided support during these unpredictable times. We have equipped instructors and our students with digital distance learning tools such as ebooks, conference lines and work packets that provide students with assignments and directions for guided study.

“Administrators and campus leadership have worked tirelessly to create a strategy that will enable learners to continue their schooling while being provided support during these unpredictable times.”

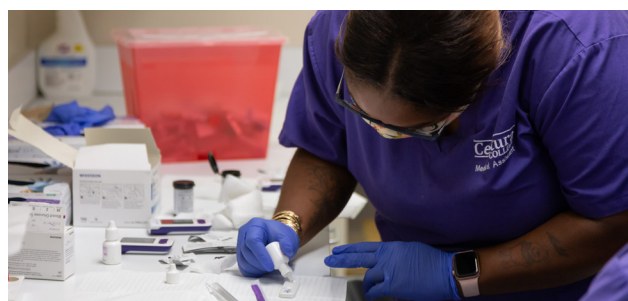
“Our students are interacting more now than they ever have; it’s incredible! We certainly have opened our eyes and minds to the future possibilities of technology and the benefits,” states Campus Executive Director Paula Massey. “I think one of the most valuable lessons we might take away from just this situation is use what you have to make it better. You don’t always have to create a grand show or shine a spotlight, sometimes what you have right in your lap.”

While practicing this impermanent tactic of distance learning, Tidewater Tech students will still have the opportunity to speak directly with fellow classmates and instructors in real-time using group conferencing and traditional electronic communication. “Go Live” features enable students to interact with one another and receive assignment support from teachers. Students should check with their instructors to ensure they have all the tools they need to continue their education through this unique experience.

“Our students are interacting more now than they ever have; it’s incredible! We certainly have opened our eyes and minds to the future possibilities of technology and the benefits,”

Accessing the Skilled Trade Gap During COVID-19

Dave Cooley and Amber Wilson



Over the past several months, we've experienced a massive shutdown of retail businesses, entertainment venues, public spaces and schools. For many employees, the freedom to continue working came down to a single word: Essential. If you were essential, you could continue working and earning a paycheck. If your position or business was deemed "non-essential", you were simply forbidden from working.

The word "essential" has taken on a new meaning for us all. It's become a part of our lexicon, (i.e., our everyday vocabulary). Even questions like how we spend our free time, what we need for our daily lives, should we go out and do X, Y, or Z often come down to a simple metric, (even if we don't realize we're doing it). We ask ourselves, "Is what I need or want to do essential?"

We are quick to recognize healthcare workers, first responders and even grocery store attendants as the essential heroes of the day during a health crisis. But there are so many others who have not been given the parades lately.

For example, a master electrician's craft can save homes from being burnt to a crisp in electrical emergencies of faulty power meters. An HVAC technician can help moderate temperatures for our families' comfortable environments, keeping us out of the blazing warmth of the summer. Our essential activities can cause problems for our cars that an auto mechanic can fix. All of these trades require skilled individuals to perform any necessary tasks.

In 2018-2019, the gap of experienced industry professionals was too large to fill the demand we had (and currently still have) for skilled trade workers. Using data from trusted sources, we can take a closer look at what the current skilled trades industry looks like. A recent *Forbes'* article gives predictions that "more than 3 million skilled trade jobs will remain open by 2028." In the same report, the forecast for many of these statistics looks good for choosing trades careers. A survey by the National Association of Home Builders highlights that "69% of its members are already experiencing delays in completing projects on time due to a shortage of qualified workers."

"...it is important to pay close attention to the trends on the ground in specific industries and occupations. These can give us crucial information not just on how quickly the labor market can rebound, but also on which occupations have better prospects for the long term..."

"more than 3 million skilled trade jobs will remain open by 2028."

Regarding the recent jobs report, *Forbes'* Senior Contributor in Manufacturing, Marco Annunziata, writes about a brighter future that skilled trades can bring. His article, titled **Why Skilled Trades Can Lead The Jobs Recovery And Enjoy A Brighter Future – Klein Tools' Front-line Insights**, Annunziata states, "Exactly because the headline numbers are so large, however, it is important to pay close attention to the trends on the ground in specific industries and occupations. These can give us crucial information not just on how quickly the labor market can rebound, but also on which occupations have better prospects for the long term—given that the impact of Covid-19 might bring structural changes to the makeup of our economy and our labor market." Here, Marco spoke of a positive outcome for people looking to gain a position in an essential career relating to skilled trades that our schools offer.

Trades are Essential. Trades never stop.

Super Bowl of Chili

Centura Richmond



“We genuinely look forward to these activities because students and faculty are engaged with each other and in high spirits.”

Centura College's Richmond Campus got into the spirit of the NFL Championship with chili, bragging rights, and fun. We encouraged the Students and faculty were encouraged to get into the festivities by donning their favorite team jersey. With the

big game a few days away, everyone had their pick on who would be victorious. Receptionist/LRC Manager, Ms. Towanna Hatcher is a true die-hard New England Patriots fan. She received her fair share of jabs for wearing her jersey, considering they've been in the last three championship games and didn't make it this year-too bad. Of course, the Registrar, Ms. Virginia Goodwin, is an enormous Pittsburgh Steelers fan. And she's proud to display her allegiance.

Students enjoyed discovering the teams the faculty represented and sharing their own favorite teams. The chili and all the fixings included sour cream, cheese, onions, and hot sauce, and we couldn't have chili without cornbread. The most significant discussion was whether to top your chili with cornbread or without. We genuinely look forward to these activities because students and faculty are engaged with each other and in high spirits. We can't wait for the start of the upcoming NFL season and doing this again, but this time the consensus is hotdogs on the grill.

Everyone had fun boasting about their favorite team and, of course, who would win the big game. Let the bragging begin.

VERY PROUD OF OUR PROFESSIONALS

ANDERSON, PATRICK

ARTHUR, KIYONA

ASHBY, SHAR-LES

ASHCRAFT, CHRISTOPHER

BELCHER, HORACE

BELL, STEPHEN

BOOKER, SHAWN

BOWMAN, CHARLOTTE

BRYANT, TINAMARIE

BURCHETTE, TREYVON

CEPERO DIAZ, RAFAEL

CHEATHAM, JERNAE

CHEVALIER, MARCELLO

COLLINS, MICHAEL

COMPTON, THOMAS

COOK, DEONA

COPELAND, ANTHONY

COPELAND, TAKISHA

CRISP, NATHANAEL

DAWSON-BROWN, MA'ATSINATUN

DELANEY, LERON

ELLIS, ANDREW

GILYARD, DURANTE

GOODE, DEYON

GUADAMUZ, TYLER

HALL, KENYA

MIDLOTHIAN MECHANICAL

RIVERSIDE CARDIOLOGY SPECIALIST

TPMG WEST POINT FAMILY MEDICINE

SYSCO HAMPTON ROADS INC.

T&C HAULING SERVICES, LLC

DOLAN MECHANICAL

BG MULTIFAMILY

VISITING PHYSICIANS

PINTO CHIROPRACTIC & REHABILITATION

MICHAEL AND SON SERVICEES

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AMIKO TRANSPORT LLC

FOUR SQUARE INDUSTRIAL

CALDWELL PEDIATRICS AND WELLNESS CENTER

CHIROPRACTIC FAMILY HEALTHCARE

RELIANCE HOME COMFORT, LLC

SENTARA HEALTHCARE

DESTRESS EXPRESS

ABOVE ALL HAIR SALON

CROTHALL HEALTHCARE- VCU HEALTH

JASWAL CORP

1ST MARINE CORPORATION

RICHMOND SPINE INTERVENTIONS PAIN CENTER

PARISER DERMATOLOGY NN

MA HALL MASSAGE/ BEAST MODE FITNESS

HARDEMAN, BAKARI

HARRELL, ANDREW

HORTON, TERENCE

JESTER, CANDACE

KNERR, VIVIAN

MARTIN, COLE

MATZ, DYLAN

MCCLAIN, JACONYER

MUNFORD JR., LARRY

PARHAM, CALVIN

PEOU, JIMMY

PHELPS, TAMMARA

PIKE, SAMANTHA

RICKS, TIA

RIVERA, MAYRA

SCOTT, QUINTESIA

SHAVERS, MELODY

SHOULDERS, RANDELLE

SMITH, FLETCHER

SPANN, MARIO

SWEAT, CHRISTOPHER

TINSLEY, KESHARA

VANDIJK, JENNIFER

WEBSTER, CHRISTY

WHITE, JULIE

WHITE, MAURICE

WOOLCOCK, CHRISTA

ZIMBRO, MARK

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NEW HORIZONS REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTERS

ICEE CO.

SCHERMERHORN ELECTRIC

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BETTERMED URGENT CARE

DIGITAL MEDIA AND SECURITY, INC.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

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SYSCO HAMPTON ROADS INC.

Campuses Donate Laptops to Schools in Uganda and Norfolk

By: Nicole Gleaton



PACKING AND SHIPPING BOXES OF LAPTOPS TO UGANDA

Centura College and Tidewater Tech have teamed up with Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM), to donate 60 laptop computers to Kiwoko Citizen's Private School in Uganda and Azalea Gardens Middle School in Norfolk. By working together with the headmaster and principal of the two schools, the colleges have worked to provide hardware, software, and instructional projects that will unite school children around the world in studying cultural research, writing, business technology, and communication.

The project launched when the Executive Vice President of the institutions, Dr. Joel English, worked alongside his brother, Dr. James English, who is a professor of Biology, to support international learning within the developing country of Uganda. James was conducting research in Uganda's remote villages, studying how pathogens passed from livestock to people through cattle parasites. He came across a 12-year old orphan named Sharon, who spent her days tending to cattle in a small homestead. She was unable to attend school without family to fund her education. James decided he wanted to help Sharon and support the school, in whatever way he could. As James got to know Sharon, he realized that, "sometimes our limits are not a shortage of resources, ideas, or goodwill, but rather an understanding of how we can help others: we often just don't know how we can help or what role we can play to support others."

After helping Sharon with the costs associated with enrolling into the Kiwoko Citizen's Private School, James got to know the school's Headmaster. He inquired about the school's needs, and the Headmaster stated that the school had a lack of teaching technologies and that they were in dire need of laptop computers. James turned to his brother, Joel, who heads the group of career colleges in the United States. Joel's solution was to not only provide a 30-laptop computer lab to Kiwoko Citizen's Private School, but to also provide a computer lab to Azalea Gardens Middle School, a local public school near the institution's home office in Southeastern Virginia. Joel worked with the Board Chair of Norfolk Public Schools and the Azalea Gardens Middle School principal to identify faculty to accept the computer donation and also to work with faculty at Kiwoko Citizen's Private School to develop classroom projects and collaborative research assignments between the students who live worlds apart. Joel stated, "We hope the classrooms in Uganda and Virginia will interact, write to each other, and study each other's cultures using the same technologies, to broaden the context and meaning of what both groups of students learn. We are deeply committed to supporting the communities we serve. These days, though, 'community' has taken on a global meaning. We're thrilled to be able to support the Kiwoko Citizen's Private School in Uganda and the young scholars here at home."

AIM, Centura College, and Tidewater Tech shipped the laptops at the end of May, and they have arrived in Uganda. They were scheduled to reach Kiwoko on June 27th, when the school reopened. Ben Clark, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, handled the final push and says, "I am elated to share that DHL finally picked up the 15 boxes of

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laptops. Each box contains 2 laptops, and they are now making their way to the Kiwoko Citizen's Private School, located outside of Kampala, Uganda. We are so excited and humbled to connect students from two different continents. We will make the local donation when it's safe to do so." The colleges will hand deliver 30 laptops to Azalea Gardens Middle School over the summer months, and collaborative projects between the two student groups will commence in the Fall of 2020.