

## Business Roundtable

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The fourth and final day of each camp week involved STEM competition. The program was viewed as a success and was funded by the Citizens for Progress Scholarship Fund. This camp program will be conducted again during the 2018 summer. The Warren County STEM mobile trailer is aimed at seventh- and eighth-graders, so the above program starts with even younger children.

### JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT:

Junior Achievement is a national organization that offers a multitude of educational programs. The Chamber is utilizing a "My Future" blended model that has a focus on soft skills development including resume building, how to do interviews, communication skills, and personal career mapping.

Paige began the JA program with a select eighth-grade class at WCMS this January. Paige will meet with the class for 45 minutes once a week for six weeks to complete the class. This first effort will be a "pilot" class. If as successful as anticipated, the

program will be considered for the full eighth-grade class at WCMS, including getting more (volunteer) instructors involved. This program is already being planned for August.

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS:

The Chamber is aware of a growing number of young professionals (defined as four years of college and/or professional job experience) residing in our community. Many are new to Warren County, drawn by a new job. Launched Jan. 4, the Chamber is now supporting a Young Professionals Society. To become a member, one must be 22 to 40 years of age, have four years of college and/or professional job experience, and be currently employed. There will be two meetings a month – a luncheon development meeting and a late afternoon social meeting. There will be an annual fee of \$125 which could be employer sponsored (can be included in Chamber dues structure/elective).

The Chamber is expecting well over 25 initial members. Past Leadership McMinnville grads will



**Pictured is Chamber of Commerce vice president of workplace development Paige Chastain, left, and Chamber president Mandy Eller.**

also be invited.

### WORKPLACE WORKSHOP SERIES:

Started in early 2017, the Chamber is offering periodic workshops at the Chamber Community Room that address various aspects of workplace development. Offered to date and planned are the following:

- Supervisory training
- Dale Carnegie series

- John Maxwell leadership series
- Excel software workshops
- TOSHA
- Cybersecurity workshops
- Advanced robotics
- Business solutions
- Relocation focus

Average cost of attendance is \$20 to \$30 and includes lunch. Average number of participants to date is 15 to 20. The above programs will be new and/or offered during 2018. Follow Chamber listings for sign-ups.

### WORKPLACE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE:

Planned for the spring of 2018 will be a focus group meeting with industry and commercial businesses to review the programs and services offered, listen to an invited guest speaker on the topic, and to communicate about needs and ideas. This will be a half-day program with lunch. Please follow Chamber listings for sign-up.

### LAUNCH TN – BIZ FOUNDRY:

The Chamber has been connected to the Biz Foundry for three years.

This state sponsored group is focused on entrepreneurial development. Started in the spring of 2017 was an entrepreneurial education program at WCHS. The program met one day a week after school for four weeks. There was a competition at the end of the program which led to an eight county competition. A total of 12 students started in the program with 7 finishing all the way to the eight county competition. The Chamber is the facilitator of this state program. It will be offered at WCHS both in the spring and fall of 2018. The program is offered to volunteer sign-ups amongst the junior and senior class at WCHS.

### TN RECONNECT:

TN ReConnect goes into high gear during the summer of 2018. TN ReConnect will be offered to all Tennessee adults 25 years of age or older to qualify for two years of tuition-free education at any state community college or TCAT, starting in the fall of 2018.

This is part of Gov. Haslam's "Drive to 55" initiative to raise the level of education in the entire

state of Tennessee. TN ReConnect follows the very successful TN Promise program. Applications for TN ReConnect are expected by the end of May. The Chamber will hold a "Lunch & Learn" luncheon this March for Warren County employers to learn how they can best take advantage of TN ReConnect. Then in May, the Chamber will co-host a meeting with potential TN ReConnect students with Motlow College staff. Motlow recently conducted an initial student meeting for this program and was pleasantly surprised with 58 attendees.

Paige and Mandy have been proactive with putting together a multiple-part strategy to address one of our greatest community needs. With the advent of the new federal tax plan, domestic manufacturing is expected to boom. Workplace development becomes a critical need.

BRAC congratulates the Chamber for this leadership and vision. For more information, please contact the Chamber at: (931) 473-6611 or pchastain@warrentn.com.

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