

Memory of son honored through non-profit that will sponsor GCHS welding trade students

By ANNETTE HARVISON
Herald Staff

The Garrett Hicks Foundation has recognized several 2018 Greene County High School graduates that earned NCCER welding certifications while enrolled at the Vo Tech Center.

Family and friends of Garrett Hicks have been holding the annual Garret Hicks Memorial Ride for several years, with the proceeds going toward the purchase of necessary work supplies for GCHS graduates that have successfully completed the NCCER Welding program at the Vo Tech.

During his time at GCHS, Garrett completed the welding program and graduated high school with an employable trade. He took pride in his work and himself for making the decision to learn the trade. Having completed the trade program during high school gave Garrett the ability to join the workforce with a highly employable skill.

Mark and Bobbie Hicks, the parents of Garrett, began the Garrett Hicks Memorial Ride to create a positive atmosphere for family and friends to remember Garrett together. The family wanted to honor the love and life of their son, and the best way to do that was through Garrett's passion for welding. The family decided to give the students of the welding program at the GCHS Vo Tech a helping hand for their hard work in the class. The Vo Tech's welding program is the same program that gave Garrett the edge he needed for a career after high school.

In April, Bobbie Hicks completed the necessary paperwork to institute the Garrett Hicks Foundation, a foundation that will benefit GCHS



Photo by Annette Harvison

Grainger Foundation representative Steven Douglas is shown presenting Bobbie Hicks with a check in the amount of \$2,500 for the Garrett Hicks Foundation on April 24 at the Greene County Vo Tech. This program is referred to as the "Tools for Success". Pictured here are (Back Row, L-R) James Wilson, Reese Green, Braxton Byrd, Shelton Silcox, Jordan Wheeler, Timothy Moody, Dale Box, Meagan Whiddon, Bobbie Hicks, Steve Douglas (Grainger Foundation) and Dawson Turner. Not pictured are GCHS seniors Landree Smith and Erin James, who were also recipients of welding supplies on behalf of the two foundations.

graduates with welding certifications. Once the foundation received their non-profit status, it opened a door to receive funding from various grants. Hicks received the first grant for the foundation from the Grainger Foundation, part of the Grainger Corporation, in the amount of \$2,500, which gave ten 2018 GCHS graduates a great start to their welding careers.

The grant, along with the proceeds from the recent Garrett Hicks Memorial Ride and auction, was used to purchase the "Tools for Success" those students needed to prosper in their careers.

Congratulations to the 2018 graduates that completed the welding program and graduated high school with an employable trade.



Photo by Annette Harvison

Shown here are some of the students who recently received job site boxes and tools to make them ready for the workforce from the Garrett Hicks Foundation. Shown (L-R) are Meagan Whiddon, James Wilson, Reese Green, Dawson Turner and Landree Smith.



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