

# Providing the tools for success

Garrett Hicks Foundation helps vocational graduates be work force-ready



Mark and Bobbie Hicks are shown (seated, center) with this year's Garrett Hicks Memorial Foundation Tools for Success award recipients and Greene County Vocational School welding instructor Dale Box and Vocational Director Lesha Lott after the awards presentation at their home earlier this year. The couple started the program to assist young people entering the workforce in memory of their son Garrett.

By ANNETTE HARVISON - Herald Staff

The Garrett Hicks Foundation proudly presented 14 seniors with welding “Tools for Success” to give them a head start as they begin their careers in the industry.

This year marks the fifth year of Mark and Bobbie Hicks recognizing the graduating Greene County High School welding students that have successfully completed the requirements for the NCCER certification. It’s the fourth year of the Garrett Hicks Foundation. The foundation gives these students a ‘scholarship’ of sorts with their Tools for Success. This year’s students were presented with welding

boxes and hoods along with a few other things to help them get a start in their career. Most of them enter the workforce upon graduation. Through the five years, 63 students have received Tools for Success.

“This is our biggest class yet,” Bobbie Hicks said. “I’m so happy about that.”

Under normal circumstances, the foundation would have held its annual fundraising memorial ATV ride in April and used those proceeds to purchase the students several of the needed items to get going on the jobsite, including gang boxes. When the coronavirus pandemic shut down everything, the couple had to think on their feet because

they weren’t going to let the pandemic keep them from giving the students the recognition they deserved.

“I was scared we wouldn’t be able to do it,” Hicks said. “We knew we had to figure out how. We weren’t backing out.”

The Barn, where the ATV rides are held, was the best place to hold the presentation as it is where family and friends gather to celebrate the life of Garrett. And on a hot afternoon, the day of what was supposed to be this year’s GCHS graduation, the graduating welding students and their families, along with Greene County Vo-Tech Center Director Lesha Lott and Welding Technology instructor Dale Box were

welcomed by Mark and Bobbie Hicks to the barn for their Tools for Success presentation. With all the chaos going on, it was a welcome afternoon of celebration, camaraderie and recognition.

The Hicks recognize the skills of the welding students who have made a path to the workforce before leaving high school. The vocational classes give students employable skills that allow them to

have a successful career when they graduate, and for many of this year’s welding students, they had already

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Shakera Warren

You have exceeded all expectations we have ever had and done so with grace and a loving heart.

We are so PROUD OF YOU!

Love, Mama & Lesha

I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 21:11

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— CLASS OF —  
2020

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