

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For additional information, contact: Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce  
804-458-5536 or [admin@hpgchamber.org](mailto:admin@hpgchamber.org)

Photo opportunity: Monday, Aug. 23, 6:45-7:15 p.m., Loyal Order of the Moose- Hopewell Lodge  
4701 Western St., Hopewell -- Celebrity Guest Speaker from 6:45-7:15pm

### **45 JOBS Students Complete First Jobs**

Actress, media personality, and businesswoman Daphne Maxwell Reid, will speak about her first job and the importance of forming good basic work skills at an early age, to forty-five Hopewell and Prince George teens who are graduating from the JOBS Program.

The Graduation and Goal-Setting Ceremony will be from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, August 23, hosted by the Loyal Order of the Moose- Hopewell Lodge. Students will receive their Certificate of Completion.

The students, participants in the Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce JOBS Program, finished the instructional portion of the program in mid-June, and have now completed at least 120 hours working in their first jobs.

Reid, a successful entrepreneur is well known for founding New Millennium Studios in Petersburg.

The Loyal Order of the Moose- Hopewell Lodge, will provide a light dinner for the students, their parents, advisers, instructors, classroom partners, employers, as well as Chamber Members, as part of the evening of networking, awards, and door prizes.

In its fifth year, the Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce JOBS Program provides after-school instruction to eighth and ninth graders to help them prepare for their first work experience. Those who complete the classroom instruction during the school year are eligible to be hired by employers in the community.

The JOBS program works with employers to place the students in positions where they can continue to learn while they contribute their skills bringing value to the employers while they begin earning income.

Wayne Walton of Friends of the Lower Appomattox and Debbie Cimillo, manager of the Petersburg ReStore that supports Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity, are among those who have worked with JOBS students this year.

Walton said his student, Jacob Dunbar, was especially helpful in a major FOLAR project on clearing a Dinwiddie County canal. He and Dunbar also "rescued" a bicycle that was being ridden by someone other than its owner on Dunbar's first day on the job.

Cimillo has supervised four students at the ReStore. "They are enthusiastic and hard-working," she said. The students worked in receiving and cleaning donations as well as helping customers and performing office tasks.

"It's been very wonderful" having JOBS students, Cimillo said.

Some employers extended students' work term beyond the minimum 120 hours required for completing the JOBS Program, because they are pleased with their work and needed the additional worker.

Katina Moss was the classroom partner at Hopewell High School. Receiving certificates from Moss's class are Jessica Alas, Yolander Allen-Bailey, Trevon Brown, Keyera Carter, Simone Clark, Talisha Feliciano, TaQunita Gholson, Michelle Greene, Keasia Jones, Malyka Jones, Nicholas Madison, Shea O'Connell, Allishia Sewell, Kiara Viera-Pagan and Kiara Washington.

Lauren Binder was the classroom partner at Carter G. Woodson Middle School. Binder's JOBS Program completers are Lorena Ariza-Martinez, Felicia Bishop, Jacob Dunbar, Dequan Edmunds, Jonathan Figueroa, Marquel Hodge, DeShawn Johnson, Jasmine Jones, Special Dominique Lathon, Quantre Lovett, Zachery Starks, Jarkeria Taylor and Quamil Woods.

At N.B. Clement Junior High School, there were two JOBS classes. Pam Tuggle was the classroom partner for one section. Completing the program from Tuggle's class are John Arbogast, Faven Butler, Brooke Campbell, Kyrisha Carter, Justice Evans, Kaylan Fuzy, Zachary Harrison, Samuel Marshall, Maurice McCoy, Katelyn Proffitt, Christopher Scott and Samuel Schojer-Butler.

Terry Maxwell, branch manager of Select Staffing and Kristina Truell were classroom partners for the other Clements class and taught all of the classes with the help of local business leaders to join in as guest speakers. Completing the program for their class are Solomon Baskfield, Robert Sean Brown, Jasmine Jefferson, Jesus Santana-Casillas and Malik Vaughan.

Maxwell also set-up a field trip so that JOBS students could practice interviewing at Select Staffing.

Other instructors in the after-school instructional program were Dr. Terrence Allen, District 19 Community Services Board; Stewart Allmond, Eastern Virginia Bankshares; Morgan Alsberry and Sheila Shannon, Smurfit-Stone Inc.; Chris Andreano, Unos; Tom Bandy, BandyWorks; Ms Kelly Beard; Maurice Bowles.

Also teaching were Mary Schoenfelder, C&F Bank, Sheryl Bryan, Virginia Manufacturing Association; Andy Clark, Ligon L. Jones Insurance Services; Patrol Officer Bobby CoPenny and Chief Steve Martin, Hopewell Bureau of Police; Mindy Flanagan, Inspiring HR; Jim Gregory, City of Hopewell; Onza E. Hyatt, Hopewell Public School Foundation; Dr. Chaya Jain, Virginia State University; Cathy Kelly, Central Virginia Health Services Inc.

Other instructors were Herman Maclin, Virginia Cooperative Extension- Prince George Office; Paul McCoy, Rolls Royce Crosspointe; Sheila Minor, Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties; Dwight Nave, Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity; Dr. Winston Odom, Hopewell City Public Schools; Prince George County Commonwealth's Attorney Jay C. Paul; John Weigel, 6<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit; and Chuck Welch, Honeywell Inc.

The following businesses and government agencies hired one or more JOBS students: Appomattox Regional Library System, Boys and Girls Club of Hopewell, Brighter Living Assisted Living, City of Hopewell, Comfort Inn of Prince George, Carter's Courthouse Café, Doreen Creel-Wood Accounting.

Ellis Fashions and Fotos, Fairfield Inn and Suites, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Herb's Automotive, Hopewell City Public Schools, Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Logistics Management Resources, McDonough Real Estate, Mim's Restaurant, Prince George County.

Prince George County Public Schools, Prince George Sheriff Bucky Allin, Randolph Market, Rosa's Italian Restaurant, Sebera's Hardware, Select Staffing, Stephen Hewlett, Strosnider Chevrolet, Crossings Shopping Center Subway, Swader's Sports Park, Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity, and Virginia Vend.

Financial contributions totaling more than \$31,000 were made by The Cameron Foundation, Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People, Carson Ruritan Club, Daniel Robinson, Del. Riley Ingram, District 19 Community Services Board, Hopewell Rotary Club, Improvement Association, John H. Clements, Prince George County, The LEAD Center, and 6<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit.

Making in-kind contributions were Bharat Shah, Ellis Fashions and Fotos, Honeywell Inc., Loyal Order of the Moose- Hopewell Lodge, Select Staffing, Subway at Circle (D) Mart, Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity, and UNO Chicago Grill.



(Above) Simone Clark, working at the HPG Chamber of Commerce



(Above) Jasmine Jefferson, working at McDonough Real Estate



(Above) Jesus Santanta-Casillas and Robert Sean Brown, working at Select Staffing