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PHOTOGRAPHY BY GICA GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDENTS



The Golden Isles Career Academy (GICA) is all about developing our best and brightest students and providing employment opportunities to keep them in the Golden Isles or prepare them to go beyond. In an era where competition to get into college is greater, standards are higher, and skilled trade workers are in high demand, GICA provides *(continues)*



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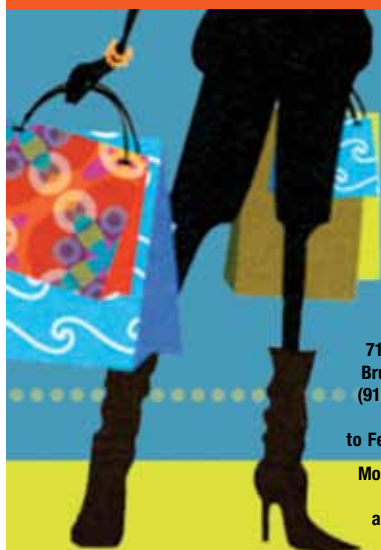
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opportunities for hands-on career training that traditional high schools cannot. The value of an alternative technical education experience is recognized by companies like GP Cellulose, Jared Manufacturing/PAR Systems and Sea Island who are supporting GICA through financial donations as well as internships of students. They see it as not only an investment in our community, but in the futures of their companies.

GICA is a public charter school created through a partnership between the GICA Board of Directors, the Glynn County Board of Education and Altamaha Technical College. Together these three entities provide hands-on career training for students, allowing juniors and seniors to earn technical college credit while in high school. Under the supervision of Executive Director Rick Townsend for the past two years, the Career Academy is slowly dem-

onstrating that it is "the place to be." Townsend has worked diligently with Principal Senetra Haywood and the GICA faculty to provide the best curriculum and opportunities for the students. He has also immersed himself in the education and business communities to create relationships that will grow Glynn County. The state of the art facility and equipment to which the students have access are simply amazing.

Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor Michael Stalvey explains, "The Career Academy allows students the opportunity to explore careers they feel they may be interested in. While here, students experience hands on learning utilizing a variety of teaching materials and industry specific tools and/or equipment. Our goal is to provide the students the opportunity to find their career and prepare for their lives moving forward. We strive to hold them accountable for skills such as attendance,



“THE THING I LIKED BEST ABOUT GICA WAS THAT I WAS ABLE TO IMMEDIATELY APPLY WHAT I LEARNED IN CLASS TO SOLVE REAL WORLD PROBLEMS.”

responsibility and their ability to complete tasks individually and as a member of a team which allow them to leave the Career Academy as employable citizens regardless of their career choices.”

GICA courses are available to every student in the Glynn County School System and include fields such as Automotive Repair, Broadcast/Video, Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice, Cosmetology, Certified Nursing Assistant and Health Care, Graphic Design, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and Robotics. Juniors and seniors who take ACELL courses such as college level English, Algebra and Psychology will earn college credit that will transfer to any regent university in the state,

including schools such as Georgia Tech, University of Georgia and Georgia Southern for no cost. With more than 900 students in attendance during the year, the GICA graduation rate of 93.4% for students attending at least two semesters is impressive.

“The real life experiences shared by the teachers and gained by internships and hands-on training are invaluable to students.” GICA graduate Alisha Mikell explains, “Each teacher specializes in their department, relating their real life experience with the industry in their classroom. I enjoyed the atmosphere and I was introduced to many opportunities that have influenced my future career choices. The teachers make

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