



Communities
In Schools

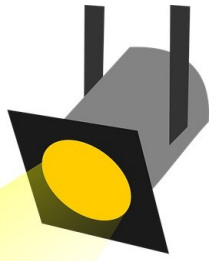
Brunswick County

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Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Surrounding students with a community of support,
empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.



Spotlight: Men In Philanthropy and Leadership Brunswick

CIS and BCC Foundation building tomorrow's leaders



Now in its second year, the "Learning to Lead" group mentors young men in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade helping them develop skills in teamwork, problem solving, and overcoming obstacles so they successfully move on to high school and beyond. The group, sponsored by Men in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (MPLB), was formed by the Brunswick Community College Foundation as a complement to Women in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (WPLB). Both groups volunteer their time mentoring young people attending Brunswick County middle schools. MPLB focuses on real-world skill development by incorporating hands-on activities that actively engage students.

There are currently two MPLB groups in Brunswick County. One group meets twice a month mentoring and working with students at Waccamaw School. The other meeting once a month with students at

South Brunswick Middle School. MPLB mentors work in coordination with CIS of Brunswick County's Action for Success program at each school.

The Waccamaw School MPLB Learning to Lead (L2L) volunteer group is made up of Nick Vance, retired newspaper and magazine editor, Michael Spadaccini, retired Air Force and Industrial Engineering, John McSkimming, retired architect, and Al Sansone, retired from Liberty Mutual Insurance company.

The South Brunswick Middle School MPLB L2L group includes retirees Dan O'Neill, Budd Dingwall, and Terry Miller as well as William Alford, President of International Lighthouse Group, and Doug Fritchey, Brunswick Community College Network Security Administrator.



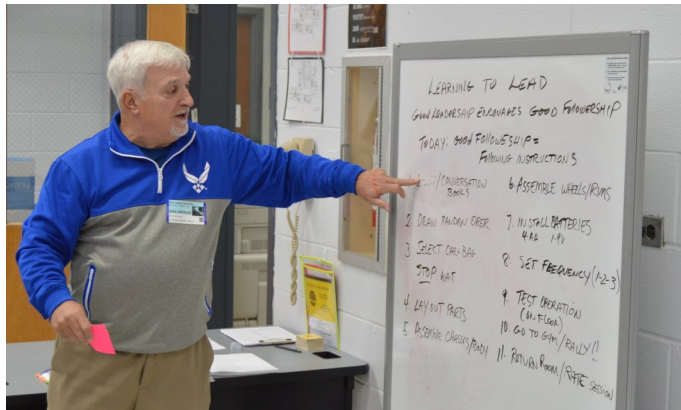
"The MPLB L2L program helps develop students' social skills by giving them a stronger sense of identity and accomplishment. A program like Learning to Lead helps young gentlemen navigate some of the toughest years of their academic and social lives.

The program keeps students invested in projects by providing continuous learning opportunities. Students acquire a deeper sense of self-confidence in their individual abilities with each new challenge and activity," said Amber Malave, CIS Success Coach at Waccamaw School.

(continued)



#AllinforKids



At Waccamaw, the group holds a morning session with 8th graders and an afternoon session with 6th graders. Just before holiday break, Waccamaw participants were building their own remote-control car. Students put the car together completely from securely attaching the chassis and body all the way to putting tires on rims, and finally installing the wheels and connecting the necessary batteries. This project was key to teach the students leadership because the cars wouldn't work unless specific directions were followed. Mentor Mike Spadaccini began the session by sharing that good leaders come from good listeners.

"If a person starts by learning to listen and follow instructions, they can turn into a good leader. Good leadership starts from good listening," said Spadaccini while instructing the boys. Anytime students needed help they were encouraged to ask. Students supported each other and naturally helped others overcome sticking points in the build. This session reinforced the importance of clear communication in giving and receiving directions. It showed students to respect each other in working together for a common task. Clear communication and following directions enabled all students to be successful in their car build. The skills learned in this and all MPLB projects help students develop skills and leadership traits that will help them to be successful in the classroom and later in life.



The students were so excited to complete the cars and know that their own two hands built the machine and made it come to life. The two groups of CIS students were able to take their completed cars to the gym for some racing. During the build students were overheard sharing their excitement. Waccamaw School CIS student Joshua said, "After building the car with my own hands, I can't wait to go race it now and see what it will do." Another student said that he enjoyed selecting his own car to build because he wanted to be 'old school' with a monster car.

The MPLB "Learning to Lead" program is seeing great results and volunteers involved get as much or more out of the program as students do. The group is currently active in Waccamaw School and South Brunswick Middle School with plans on expansion. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year the group will create a continuity book of program development, curriculum, and activities. This will allow men all over the county to join BCC and become part of MPLB groups partnering with CIS and other schools to implement more MPLB L2L groups in Brunswick County.



Men In Philanthropy & Leadership Brunswick County mentors with Amber Malave, CIS Success Coach, and Waccamaw School CIS students

Wishing you a joyous New Year in 2020!



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