



Communities
In Schools

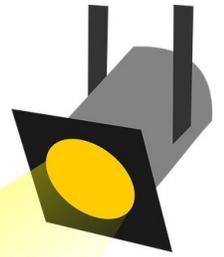
Brunswick County

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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 shaping leaders for tomorrow



Last issue we looked at the Men In Philanthropy & Leadership Brunswick Learning to Lead (MPLB L2L) group at Waccamaw School. This time we visited South Brunswick Middle School and the MPLB group working with students there each month.

Going strong in its second year, the Brunswick County men's "Learning to Lead" group is continuing to mentor 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 created 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 and teaches positive life lessons.

There are currently two MPLB groups in Brunswick County. One group meets twice a month mentoring and working with students at Waccamaw School (K-8) and the other meets once a month with students at South Brunswick Middle School (6-8). MPLB mentors work in coordination with Communities In Schools of Brunswick County's (CIS) Action for Success program at each school.



The South Brunswick Middle School MPLB Learning to Lead (L2L) volunteer group is made up of retirees Dan O'Neill, Dave Weigel, Budd Dingwall, and Terry Miller as well as Bill Alford, President of International Lighthouse Group, and Doug Fritchey, Brunswick Community College Network Security Administrator. The Waccamaw School MPLB L2L volunteer group is made up of retirees Nick Vance, Michael Spadaccini, John McSkimming, and Al Sansone.



"It is always a joy to see the passion that MPLB brings to promote leadership skills and ensure the success of the students. They are not only mentors but have proven to be challengers, coaches and cheerleaders for the students! The MPLB L2L lessons challenge each student to be their best self, provide knowledge and wisdom and support students every step of the way," said Calie Hodgson, CIS Success Coach at South Brunswick Middle School.

(continued)

#AllinforKids



The MPLB L2L group hold lessons and mentoring sessions with 6th and 7th grade SBMS students monthly. Students at SBMS are nominated and selected by their teachers for participation in the program that demonstrate the ability within themselves to be a positive role model and leader in the school for peers. The MPLB has covered a variety of leadership, respect, and teambuilding topics to strengthen the students' leadership abilities this year. Since September the group has participated in a penny pass game, a communication and listening program where one student draws from another's instructions, a team cups challenge that was the favorite of everyone in the group, a building and showing respect session, and a lesson on how peer

pressure "wraps you up" and the power of outside influences as students were challenged to recognize professional and corporate logos presented to them with no names or labels and were almost 90% correct in their answers.

"Brunswick Community College Foundation and Men in Philanthropy has allowed me and my fellow mentors to play a small role in helping young men "Learn to Lead" by becoming aware of how they can actually be a positive influencer of their peers though their interactions and behavior. In our sessions, we have the opportunity to reinforce and support what their parents and teachers are sharing with them. I have always had the utmost respect for teachers and other school support personnel...and after this experience, I am simply in awe of what they do for our kids each and every day," said Bill Alford, MPLB L2L volunteer group member.

"MPLB 'Learning to Lead' mentors" helps me put my best foot forward and be a leader among my friends showing them positive decisions," said a SBMS student participant. "Learning to Lead makes me a leader for my friends and gives me a positive influence," said another.

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. The goal of BCC Foundation through their MPLB and WPLB groups is to engage volunteers and community members in education throughout Brunswick County.



"We are grateful for the partnership with CIS and the volunteers that give their time," said Elizabeth Wassum, Executive Director of the Brunswick Community College Foundation. MPLB enthusiasm and program organization is strong which helps increase student involvement. Volunteers have seen the power of mentorship to students in action. It enables them to get to know students and help them develop into leaders. MPLB and WPLB groups want to inspire students to think of opportunities past high school in continuing their education.

The MPLB group is ready for expansion. Any men that might be interested to join BCC and become part of MPLB groups partnering with CIS and other schools to implement more MPLB L2L groups in Brunswick County may



Men In Philanthropy & Leadership Brunswick County mentors with Kamin Brennan from the BCC Foundation and Calie Hodgson, CIS Success Coach at SBMS.

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