

OTHER VOICES

Greenville schools prepare students for future

BURKE ROYSSTER

George Bernard Shaw said, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

Though progress requires change, it is not an automatic result. One key to initiating change that leads to progress is having a defined objective, and the "Profile of the South Carolina Graduate" serves that purpose for Greenville County Schools (GCS). This profile was developed by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) Superintendents' Council, and has been adopted by the S.C. Arts Alliance, the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, the S.C. Council on Competitiveness, the S.C. Department of Education, and TransformSC, among other groups. Based on this profile, our graduates should have world class knowledge based on rigorous standards, world class skills including communication, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and teamwork, and quality characteristics such as integrity, perseverance, self-direction and work ethic.

Experts believe that prior to 1900 human knowledge dou-

bled about every century. After World War II that window shrunk to every 25 years. With the onset of the information age, knowledge is doubling every 12 to 24 months. More than ever before quality education means teaching students how to gather, study, sort and share information - in other words how to gain and apply knowledge - instead of just learning facts.

So what are we doing to help GCS graduates mirror the "Profile of the South Carolina Graduate?" There are numerous answers to that question, but in particular we are expanding opportunities to practice important skills and characteristics in real-world settings through project-based learning, expanded career center courses, shadowing opportunities and work-based learning. These experiences help students improve skills such as communication, critical thinking and problem solving, while also requiring self-direction, perseverance and the collaboration that hones interpersonal proficiency. We are also focusing more directly on enhancing student preparedness for college and/or a career path through an initiative we call Graduation Plus (G-Plus).

The goal of G-Plus is for



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students to finish Greenville County School with a high school diploma plus one or more of the following: college credit toward a four-year degree via dual-credit, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate courses; college credit in a specific degree program such as Accelerate Engineering or the Art of Architecture; a career and technical (CATE) certificate in an area such as welding, HVAC, nursing, cosmetology, etc.; or an advanced CATE certificate

through dual-credit courses with Greenville Tech.

Students who leave GCS with more than a high school diploma are better prepared for an unknown future in which plans may fall through or circumstances change. G-Plus also gives students an advantage when their plans proceed in an orderly fashion. After all, arriving at college with a degree to be an engineer and more than 30 hours toward one's chosen degree provides options such as significant financial savings and early graduation, schedule space for a minor, more time for work to help fund educational dreams, and greater clarity about what comes next. Likewise, joining the workforce in possession of industry certifications leads to entry level work that averages double the minimum wage, while advanced certifications promise even greater earnings potential.

The Class of 2015 set several new standards for GCS by earning scholarship offers totaling over \$118 million and posting an all-time best graduation rate of 84.2 percent. Additionally, they outscored both the state and the nation on the ACT and SAT college entrance exams. Equally impressive, in taking the ACT Workkeys test, 89.2 percent of last year's ju-

nior class earned a National Career Readiness Certificate and more than a quarter scored at the highest levels of gold or platinum. Finally, last year's students earned more than 2,000 hours of college credit and 345 industry certifications. Earning college credit while still in high school confirms students' ability to succeed in college-level courses just as career and technical certificates confirm that students possess industry-recognized skills.

Human knowledge is expanding at historic rates and access to knowledge and ideas is growing. Education is no longer about supporting a purely agrarian or industrial economy, nor is it focused solely on the transfer of facts. As a result, Greenville County Schools is using strategies like project-based learning, career and tech courses, shadowing, work-based learning and G-Plus to help teach the knowledge, skills and characteristics students will need as adults. GCS is evolving, and doing so with the goal of better serving our community and preparing students to compete in and contribute to a future we can only imagine.

Clement's Kindness enhances cancer care

NICHOLE BRYANT, M.D.

What began as a way to honor a son's memory has grown into a \$2 million-plus legacy of love for Knox and Priscilla Haynsworth. They are the founders of Clement's Kindness Fund for the Children, a fund named for their son that helps address the medical, psychological, social, emotional and financial needs of Upstate families impacted by pediatric cancer and other serious blood disorders. They are also the impetus behind a state-of-the-art day hospital to serve the medical needs of these same patients.

The Haynsworths realized how fragile life is after the death of their son Clement at 24. Clement loved children and had a kind and giving spirit. They have chosen to honor Clement's memory by continuing to show that same kind of love.

Since 2002, Clement's Kindness has given approximately \$800,000 in financial assistance to patients and families at the Greenville Health System Children's Hospital and its BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center. They have also given an additional \$1.2 million

to support the center's programs and facilities, including its just-dedicated day hospital named for the couple.

The Knox and Priscilla Haynsworth Day Hospital at the BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center provides chemotherapy, blood transfusions and other treatments to pediatric and adolescent patients with cancer and other blood disorders.

Being a child with cancer or a blood disorder is hard. It can be painful, isolating, frightening and overwhelming. It's incredibly tough for a child to spend an entire day receiving chemotherapy or other treatments and be away from school and their friends. Now, thanks to Clement's Kindness and the Haynsworths, these young patients can receive care in an environment that makes them feel more like a child and less like a patient.

Recent renovations to the day hospital include child-friendly equipment, more comfortable and adaptable infusion chairs, new décor for the suite and distraction technologies such as tablets, TVs and headphones. The pediatric hematology/oncology center averages more than 8,000 outpatient



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visits annually, including day hospital visits that may last all day and require repeat treatments over a period of years.

Past gifts from Clement's Kindness have supported various programs including Camp Courage, a week-long summer camp, as well as a parents'

bereavement group and our long-term survivorship clinic. Because of the extraordinary compassion and generosity of the Haynsworths, Clement's Kindness and their committed advisory board, we can better provide the extent of care children and their families need at this challenging time. We are so grateful for the assistance that has been provided to the patients and to our center.

Thank you to the community members and local corporations for their support of Clement's Kindness. The day hospital renovations were made possible in part from grants to Clement's Kindness from the Graham Foundation and the Hollingsworth Funds. The most notable donor is SYN-NEX Share the Magic, which has graciously provided more than \$850,000 over the past five years.

For our patients' families, Clement's Kindness has helped assist with critical financial support such as making a house payment or utility payment - or even buying gas to get to their child's next treatment. It is comforting for our staff to have Clement's Kindness help fulfill the needs of

our patients that go far beyond medical treatments. Together, we are able to better serve these families during some of their most difficult days.

Clement's Kindness is also able to relieve unique and very personal concerns. For one family, this came in the form of assisting the mother with the fees associated with obtaining her General Education Diploma so she could make a better life for herself and her family. Not only did that gift help make the mother's dream come true, her daughter completed her treatment for leukemia and is now a senior in high school and planning to attend college next year.

For another family, Clement's Kindness surprised a little girl with a puppy after the death of her family pet. They also helped a budding middle-school musician fulfill a dream by paying the instrument rental his family could no longer afford.

Extraordinary medical care requires extraordinary human care. That's what Clement's Kindness and Knox and Priscilla Haynsworth help us provide, and we could not be more grateful to them.

An inventor, a CEO and Obama go to a conference...

GRAY JOHNSON AND MALLARY TAYLOR

As the details of the Paris terrorist attacks unfolded on CNN, our group sat solemnly and ate our traditional Filipino breakfasts of eggs, rice and sweet bread rolls. Surrounded by our peers from Furman University and from countries around the world we couldn't help but acknowledge the juxtaposition of the environment we were in and the chaos we were watching unfold on TV.

This past November, six Furman students were given the opportunity to represent the United States and the college at the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit that took place in Manila, Philippines. In 1989, APEC originated as an informal meeting of 12 Asia-Pacific economies bordering the Pacific Rim. Today, it has evolved into a well-established annual economic forum consisting of 21 member economies whose goal is to promote sustainable

economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

As student delegates, we were part of the APEC Voices of the Future program, which allows the region's youth to participate in the formal APEC programming in addition to events designed specifically to facilitate delegate-to-delegate dialogue. The Riley Institute at Furman has played a pivotal role in growing the Voices of the Future program and it sends a select group of students to attend each year.

The theme of APEC 2015 — "Building inclusive economies, building a better world" — was particularly fitting, given the global context of issues like terrorism, the refugee crisis and climate change. The discussions centered on the idea that building prosperous economies must include both the CEO and the small business owner. This theme reflects APEC's background and overall mission, and it also reflects the group's experience throughout our week in Manila.



Gray Johnson, pictured, of Aiken and Mallary Taylor, of Greenville are seniors at Furman University and members of the Riley Institute Advance Team. Their emails are gray.johnson@furman.edu and mallary.taylor3@furman.edu.

Our delegation was diverse academically, personally and in career interests, just to name a few. We represented

a range of majors such as economics, political science, Asian studies and psychology. One student in the delegation grew up in Rwanda, providing an international perspective.

Most likely, each of us will pursue a different path beyond APEC and Furman. However, it was our unique backgrounds and personalities that allowed us to each contribute something meaningful to the conversation at APEC. Beyond our own delegation, we interacted with dozens of others from around the world, representing a multitude of worldviews and life experiences.

We heard talks from an activist who educates women to become engineers on solar panels, a strategic adviser to Uber, and social entrepreneurs combating poverty through community farms.

The convening of all these different views is perhaps best illustrated through one of the highlights of the week. President Barack Obama served as a moderator on a panel alongside Jack Ma, CEO of Alibaba,

and a Filipino woman who had designed lamps that run on salt water and can charge cell-phones. It sounds like the beginning of a bad joke — "an inventor, a CEO and Obama walk into a bar" — but it was a perfect embodiment of the ingenuity that is possible when government, business, and nonprofits intersect to tackle the world's most pressing problems.

Diversity in all its forms — heritage, nationality, experience, job sector — proved to be the element that truly allowed us to learn, engage and connect with each other, resulting in meaningful solutions to the world's challenges. During that week, the Paris attacks highlighted the destruction and violence that can arise from intolerance. Meeting with the other delegates from around the world gave us hope that there is still plenty of room for respect, discussion and collaboration as we progress toward a shared vision for our global future.

Bruss

Continued from Page 2E

columns by a writer who was surprised at a community's support when he searched for

his missing dog. Coming soon, you'll find a column by a foster family urging others to consider serving in this needy area. Certainly these writers often opinions on the issues they write about. But again, no columnist is turned away be-

cause of his or her position. If you have expertise on a particular subject or have had an experience that can help us all understand our community better, and you're able to put those ideas into compelling words, we'd be glad to consider

publishing your thoughts as a Greenville Column. We can't accept every piece that comes our way, but we do want our community's voices to be heard, and this is a great forum for that. Steve Bruss is the engage-

ment/opinion editor at The Greenville News. Follow him on Twitter @SteveBruss. Email him at sbruss@greenville-news.com.