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# NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Clayton County Public Schools Expands Career, Technical & Agricultural Education Internship Recruitment Program** *Innovative initiative to enhance district's relation with business sector*

**JONESBORO** – The Career, Technical & Agricultural Education (CTAE) division of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is excited to announce the expansion of the CTAE **Market University** (Market U) Internship Recruitment Initiative. Scheduled to begin November 1, 2018, the program will span the entire month of November and is expected to have a profound effect on the way businesses and the school district co-exist.

Created as a one week initiative in 2017, Market U is designed to establish a talent pipeline for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students, and allow them to gain valuable industry experience by providing the private sector with highly qualified young adults to employ, mentor, inspire and lead. Through the implementation of **Market University**, the school district is seeking to transform how teachers, students, businesses, industry and community partners relate and interact with one another.

"We are excited about the game-changing potential of this expanded initiative," said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent of Schools. "This professionally developed effort will continue to transform how we as a school district engage with local and regional businesses while we also attract additional businesses to our community."

A key element of this initiative is connecting well trained and highly qualified students with industry and business leaders to assist in addressing workforce needs as well provide students with real world, real work experience. The students in CCPS are being prepared for college, career, and life, as we are developing employer, desired 21st Century skills: *Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration*.

"CTAE Internship **Recruitment** Month is dedicated to recruiting students and businesses for the purpose of filling the talent pipeline with CCPS students in various high-demand, high-skill, high-wage industries," said Dr. Eboni Chillis, CCPS Coordinator of CTAE. "As a district, our intentional focus is educating well trained and highly qualified students and connecting them with industry and business leaders. While this fills the needs of employers seeking highly skilled workers, it also places Clayton

County on the forefront for businesses that may be interested in expanding their business into our county,” she added.

An additional element of the program is the **Market U Survey**. Two surveys, one for [students](#) seeking a work connection and the other for [business/industry](#) seeking talent will work in tandem to pair each together in a working relationship.

“The surveys are important in that they are the vehicle that puts a student seeking to be associated with a business that is aligned with his or her pathway with a business seeking a student who is 16 years of age or older and who is ready to enter the world of work,” Chillis said. “We see this as a win-win opportunity for our students wanting real-world employment experiences and for area businesses seeking to build a functional relationship with the school district,” she added.

For more information about Market University, please contact Dr. Eboni Chillis via email at [eboni.chillis@clayton.k12.ga.us](mailto:eboni.chillis@clayton.k12.ga.us) or visit the district’s website at [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us).

### **About Clayton County Public Schools**

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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