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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twelve CCPS Graduating Seniors Complete Firefighter/EMT Pathway in the Firefighter/EMS Apprenticeship Academy

Collaborative partnership honors the first graduation of program participants

JONESBORO – On Monday, June 15, a graduation ceremony of a different sort took place at the Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services Training Facility in Riverdale. It was the first opportunity to celebrate a group of teenagers who had accomplished something that had never been done in Georgia nor the United States.

Twelve Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Graduating seniors and members of the very first cohort of the Firefighter/EMS Apprenticeship Academy turned their tassels signifying completion of the three-year program. These students are the first group of seniors to complete the Firefighter & EMT Pathways. Seven of the students earned their firefighter helmets and a job offer from Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services Department with a starting salary in excess of \$42,000. The remaining five have been rolled into the department’s recruitment program for enhanced training.

The Firefighter & EMT Pathway partnership involves the CCPS Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) program, students from Charles Drew High School (CDHS) in Riverdale and Mundy’s Mill High School (MMHS) in Jonesboro. Agencies participating in this program include the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) – CTAE Division, Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services, the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, and CCPS. It has been jointly funded by the county and the school district.

“You are our heroes,” exclaimed Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO, as he addressed the graduates. “By successfully completing the Firefighting & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Pathway program, you not only are immediately eligible for employment, but you are a highly trained and qualified professional.”

Prior to the ceremony, Dr. Beasley said, “This pathway is an impressive example of what it means to work in harmony for the betterment of citizens and communities. When two or more government organizations communicate and ultimately work together effectively, it is a win-win situation for everyone involved and for all who are affected by the partnership.”

“It is a wonderful example of our desire to build robust, lasting relationships with not only the government of Clayton County but with other governments, local and regional, to secure the best possible career opportunities for all young people in Clayton’s communities,” he added.

“I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners (CCBOC) and Chairman Jeff Turner and (CCBOC) District 1 Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory, who served as a catalyst for making this Apprenticeship Academy possible,” Dr. Beasley said. “Included in this appreciation is Clayton County Fire and Emergency Services Department under the able leadership of Chief Landry Merkison for demonstrating a true vision of collaboration in making this outstanding program a reality.”

“Finally, I offer a huge thank you to members of the Clayton County Board of Education for approving the district’s involvement in this partnership, thereby making this incredible career path available to our deserving students,” he concluded.

To view photos of the ceremony please use the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/112YTxeNC2LKMwUqHjUKnP2DTGg7tjhrw?usp=sharing>

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through 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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