



Freedom *Flyer*

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Celebrate Freedom Foundation Newsletter

Workforce Development Grant

On October 31, 2018 we finished up the Internship Program that was held here at Celebrate Freedom Foundation under the Central Midlands Workforce Development Grant in partnership with Richland County (SC) School District one. We are so proud of every one of the interns that participated in this program. As of October 31st, we had five of the interns going to college full time, 1 at USC Upstate, 1 at Coastal Carolina and 3 at Midlands Technical College. One intern will have her education paid from through scholarships and grants from her time at MTC and then onto USC. Two of our interns are in the process of joining the US Army. They have both signed their Letters of Intent. One of our interns was offered and he accepted full time employment at Nephron Pharmaceuticals. Another intern accepted a position with Portrait Innovations, is beginning his own business in the Audio-Visual profession and plans to apply for admission at Trident Technical College for spring semester. Our final two interns are actively applying for employment and going on interviews. We fully believe they will be employed full time soon.

All the accomplishments achieved by the interns were recognized in a ceremony held on October 26, 2018. Chris White from the Midlands Workforce Board spoke at the ceremony along with Jack Lovelady. Members of the Richland County School District 1 School Board were also in attendance. We all here at CFF are very proud of every one of the interns. Not only did they learn some important life skills, they also learned that there are many opportunities out there for every one of them. We here at CFF also learned from them. We will miss seeing their faces here on a daily basis.



Workforce Development Interns and their CFF Instructors



Chairman's Corner

Halloween, Oct 31, marked the end of a both unique and very-successful pilot program sponsored by the Central Midlands Work Force Development Council and executed by the staff of CFF. The Foundation had the mission of providing the skill sets to a group of 11 High School graduates necessary to compete successfully in one of five career tracks. CFF was to provide, during a 6 month period, the necessary training so that each of the 11 students would be successful in one of 5 career tracks: that upon completion of the pilot program an individual would have a permanent job; have another paid internship (not in CFF); attend a 4 year college or a technical college and lastly, join the US military . The results exceeded expectations. Of the group, as of Oct 31, 5 are attending a 4 year college or a technical college, 2 have permanent jobs, 2 have joined the military and 2 have final interviews on jobs.

These results did not happen by chance. The CFF staff under the leadership of the Executive Director, Stephen Seymour, on a daily basis trained and mentored the group. One measure of the groups work and progress can be measured by the effort in restoring the Marine Corps Sea Cobra helicopter now on permanent display at Patriots Point. The CFF methodology was a radical departure for the Central Midlands Work Force Development Council and we thank them for taking a chance and their support during the past six months. Our partnership was a successful experiment where an opportunity was met by preparation.

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Founded in 1883 as Pittsburgh Plate Glass by Captain John B. Ford and John Pitcairn in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Today, PPG is a global supplier of paints, coatings, optical products, and specialty materials.

Through leadership in innovation, sustainability and color, PPG helps customers in industrial, transportation, consumer products, and construction markets and aftermarkets to enhance more surfaces in more ways than does any other company.

At PPG, our 47,000 employees in 70 countries bring life to our purpose and promise: WE PROTECT AND BEAUTIFY THE WORLD™. We develop and deliver the paints, coatings and specialty materials that our customers have trusted for 135 years. Through dedication and industry-leading expertise, we solve our customers' biggest challenges, collaborating closely to find the right path forward. PPG has a long heritage of and commitment to innovation, sustainable product development and community engagement.

Educating tomorrow's leaders We are investing in the next generation of innovators in industries related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). 2017 highlights include our ongoing support of fun, hands-on STEM learning through partnerships with the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh and the NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam; funding scholarships and career guidance for engineering and chemistry students in universities across China and Korea; and helping local schools in the U.S. bring innovative STEM projects into their classrooms, through organizations like Celebrate Freedom Foundation.

Strengthening communities We're more than a corporation. We're neighbors, and we're proud to make meaningful contributions in the communities where we operate. We applaud and encourage employee engagement and offer support through our matching gifts and volunteer grants programs in the U.S. Employees across EMEA can collectively select a "Charity Partner" for their site to support through donations and volunteering; we match those fundraising efforts. We also partner with organizations that meet essential or critical needs for the community such as food banks, emergency services and disaster relief.

Celebrate Freedom thanks PPG for their strong support of our STEM Education Program.



Veterans Day

"The eleventh hour, the eleventh day and the eleventh month", marked the end of the Great War when it wasn't unusual to have over 100,000 casualties both allied and Germans in one day. Over 80,000 dead, wounded and missing on the first morning of the battle of the Somme. It seems an affront to history to rename the day. Most of the participants in this war other than Americans remember the day because so many young men lost their lives for a cause to "end all wars". Full generations of French, German and British males were lost forever, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the "Great War".

The day is particularly poignant for me because it was my father's birthday who, at 19 years old, fought in the Alps as a member of the Italian Army, then a member of the Allies, that battled against the Austrian - Hungarian empire. His last thoughts of this day were not his birthday but more the images of the frozen dead coming off the mountain frozen in grotesque shapes.

The point is that are we forgetting the real meaning of 11 November because it does not seem to consider the tragic cost paid by soldiers of other nations. There is an unseen bond among all soldiers who understand the utter futility of war, its tragic consequences not only for them but the innocents. So as we approach Veterans Day here in America, I would ask you to say a prayer for all those who loved their country more than self and gave the ultimate sacrifice. Abraham Lincoln wanted Arlington Cemetery placed where he and his successors could see from the window of the Oval Office, the price paid by the young for the decisions of old. We should thank all our veterans for their sacrifices that allow our nation to be the land of the free because of the brave.

John Lenti, MG (R)



2017 Columbia Veterans Day Parade



2017 Newberry Veterans Day Parade

Presidents Press

Senator Lindsey Graham expressed amazement and pride upon completing a recent tour of the CFF Education Center and National Headquarters last month. Senator Graham was amazed at the scope and positive impact of the Foundations education and workforce development programs and expressed his pride to be affiliated with CFF as an Honorary Board Member since it's formation in 1999. Senator Graham met many of the staff and volunteers during his visit and he was especially moved by the combat wounded military volunteers who serve as the backbone of the Foundation's leadership and instructional team. A special thank you to Gay Suber, our CFF Legislative Liaison, for coordinating this visit by the Senator.

CFF is working hard to close the gap that has become particularly acute in the aerospace, energy, logistics and transportation industries. Major employers are backing our Workforce Development Program which we are customizing to their needs. Dominion Energy, headquartered in Richmond, Va. awarded a ten-thousand dollar grant to CFF to support it's STEM Education Outreach Program. This Foundation program under the leadership of Lori Wicker, travels to schools across the southeastern U. S. to promote career awareness with our sponsors and the importance of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. Dominion Energy is the nations 4th largest gas and energy producer and 20% of their workforce are military veterans. CFF Board Member, Colonel (USA Retired) Carl Horn is recognized for his efforts to inform and introduce Dominion Energy to the Foundations programs.



Ms. Kristen Beckham, External Affairs Representative, for Dominion Energy, presented CFF a donation check for our STEM Education Outreach Program.

Praise and recognition is extended to the Foundations Board, it's staff, and outstanding volunteers who are devoted to achieving our mission and to our sponsors and members whose support makes it possible for us to inspire our nations future leaders.

STEM Team Report

Celebrate Freedom Foundation's exciting STEM Outreach Program visits dozens of schools across the Southeastern US every year with more than 10,000 students participating annually.

CFF's STEM Outreach Program, emphasizes the necessity of STEM Subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in middle schools and high schools. It connects the classroom with real world jobs and career fields. The program's mission is to help build a workforce that can compete globally for jobs in the future, and to ensure America's technological advantage in a global environment. STEM subjects provide skills and competencies greatly needed here in the Southeast, across the nation and globally.

How can you help the CFF STEM Outreach Program? We are always looking for volunteers to assist in these visits and if you have a school that you want us to visit, let us know. You can reach out to **Lori Wicker** our Director of STEM Education by email stemed@cff-soar.org or a phone call at (803) 882-8812



STEM Education Outreach Program visit with "Annie"

SCHEDULE

November

7 Nov Wake Tech College, NC
 27 Nov N. Surry High School, NC
 28 Nov Rockingham High School, NC
 29 Nov South Western Randolph High School, NC

December

3 Dec Greenbrier High School
 4 Dec Lakeside High School
 Slots are still filling up

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS NOTES

To say that things are busy here at the Foundation is quite an understatement. Our professional staff and volunteers primarily military and combat wounded veterans focused their efforts over the last few months in providing skills instruction and mentoring to our now graduated fulltime workforce development interns. Under this leadership they started setting up the Foundations aviation warehouse using state-of-the-art logistics and barcoding software. The interns learned important aviation, team building, and communications skills while completing projects and maintenance on both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft, also on the STEM trailer and Humvees in our inventory.

Oh, did I mention fixed wing aircraft?

The Foundation now owns and operates a Cessna C-172 and a Navy T-34B airplane. We will introduce you to "Sassy Sue" and "Sweet Caroline" in the next newsletter.

Capital Campaign Kick Off

Celebrate Freedom Foundation has launched a Capital Campaign and we need your help!

The Capital Campaign for The Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) is aimed to create long term success for our programs in STEM Education and "workforce development." The students of today need programs like ours to inspire, motivate, and enable them to be the leaders and workforce of tomorrow.

What will the Capital Campaign focus on?

- (1) Development of the CFF STEM Education center & additional facilities for students to work & train
- (2) Training Aids: purchase & restoration of additional training aids for the foundation and students
- (3) Programs expansion: Hire paid EVP to lead and part-time staff to scale efforts
- (4) Technology: Upgrades to the facility, STEM outreach, and integrate CRM software to track

How can you help?

- (1) **DONATE**: www.GoCFF.org/donate
- (2) **Sponsorship**: STEM visit at your school - www.GoCFF.org/contact
- (3) **Shop**: on Amazon Smile, select Celebrate Freedom Foundation - <https://smile.amazon.com>

To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

National Headquarters and
STEM Education Center

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170

Phone: (803) 822-8812
Email: info@cff-soar.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

**Educating the Public,
promoting patriotism and
honoring the Military - Past,
Present and**



Celebrate Freedom would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers that have given their time and effort to the renovation of the CFF National Headquarters and to our Board of Directors for their continued pursuit of progress. Without the countless hours of help, CFF wouldn't be where we are today.

Thank you!




Find us on Facebook!


Any questions or concerns about the newsletter please contact Tom Robbins at the phone number or email address listed above.

Donation or Membership Mail In Slip

If you would like to make a donation or become a member of CFF you can fill in your information below, cut it out and mail it to CFF at the address listed above.



Mail in donation and or membership slip



Please Print

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Prior Service?: _____ Branch _____

Spouse Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____ Anniversary Date: _____

Student: \$25.00 x _____ General: \$50.00 x _____ Lifetime: \$200.00 x _____ Sponsor: \$ _____

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors who have given donations in order to ensure the education of STEM and to honor our military - past, present and future.

