

Lawson State's Career Pathway Program Becomes National Prototype

BESSEMER, Alabama - October 18, 2016 - Gwendolyn Ekundayo, Nancy Wilson and Lorenza Thomas presented at the National Career Pathway Network Conference (NCPN), which was held October 5 – 7, 2016 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team's presentation titled, ***It Takes a Village: High School Equivalency to High – Tech Programs***, focused on Lawson State Community College's Adult Education Career Pathway program and its success with adult education students simultaneously enrolled in a GED class and a high tech/high demand career tech program.

"This is another example of Lawson State Community College taking the lead," said Lorenza Thomas, director of SPACE and Community Initiatives. "We're happy to say that this was the first program of its kind in the state of Alabama."

"The program was developed to provide additional opportunities to adult education students who are currently enrolled in a GED® class," said Gwendolyn Ekundayo, director of Lawson State's Adult Education Program. "Now, based on the success of the original program, the Career Pathway Program at Lawson State will be expanded across campuses to include additional programs beginning in January 2017."

This is a collaborative partnership including Lawson State and its Adult Education Department, The Career and Technical Education Department, The Student Services Department, The Center for Workforce Development/Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and The Consortium for Alabama Regional Center for Automotive Manufacturing (CARCAM).

"Others have taken interest and we have been contacted from numerous colleges in the state and around the country for information and even guidance from Lawson State on implementing a career pathway program," said Nancy Wilson, assistant dean for Career Technical Education. "We are excited to be able to continue sharing information on the program and express our thanks to CARCAM for the presentation opportunity at NCPN."