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EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Education Notebook: New Horizons partners with public works for program

By Cathy Grimes, Samieh Shalash and Jennifer L. Williams

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This month, New Horizons Career and Technical Education Center started its partnership with the Hampton Roads Public Works Academy cadet program, according to a New Horizons principal.

Twenty students were selected to be in the first group for the two-year program, said Butler Farm campus Principal David Creamer. They will attend classes twice a month and be required to complete a paid summer internship, which will give them a certificate and qualifications for employment with public works.

York looks to hire more minorities

York County School Board members received their annual briefing on division staff demographics this month.

Noreen Becci, the division's new director of human resources, reported that 25 percent of York's school administrators are minorities, while 12.6 percent of the teachers are minorities. She said

efforts will be made at trying to "home grow" some minority teachers to move up into administration, particularly African-American males.

Hiddenwood principal is one 'to watch'

The National School Boards Association's Technology Leadership Network added Hiddenwood Elementary School Principal Brian Nichols to its "20 to Watch" list. The association chooses a group of leaders each year who are championing the use of technology in the classroom.

Nichols, will be recognized at the organization's annual conference in Denver. Nichols advocates a mix of high- and low-technology. Teachers and students use Smart Boards and computers along with personal white boards and markers for school work, focusing on problem-solving and analytical skills. Students must be able to explain their answers and show how they reached them. Nichols also helped build a "virtual data wall" site providing detailed information on student achievement, so teachers and parents can see what skills are flourishing and what skills need help.

W-JCC, NPS in the top 10 for student credentials

The Williamsburg- James City County School District is one of the top 10 in Virginia for preparing students for careers with industry credential programs. The district was ranked seventh by the Virginia Department of Education. This is the second year W-JCC has ranked in the top 10. The district's career and technical education students earned 517 industry credentials. Students earned certifications in several fields, including technology and engineering, business and information technology and health and medical science. Newport News Public Schools also made the top 10, with students earning 432 certifications.

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