



Essex County Public Schools

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Congratulations to the SOS (Start on Success) graduates who completed their internship at Riverside Hospital on May 25, 2018. On February 1, 2018, six seniors entered Riverside Hospital to work in six different departments under the guidance of Mrs. Dolly Loomis, Riverside Tappahannock Volunteer Coordinator with assistance from Mrs. Teresa Umphlette, Essex High School Transition Coach. These six seniors entered into an unknown territory and based on remarks from the Riverside Hospital staff, they were eager to learn and now leave well trained and ready for their next steps in life.

Start on Success is a program coordinated by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center's Center on Transition Innovations, part of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education. The program teaches job skills to high school students who are pursuing a standard high school diploma and then places them into paid internships with local businesses. A key part of Start on Success is that both mentors in the workplace and on-site educators from the local school systems support students.

On Friday, May 25, 2018, these six seniors received their SOS certificate of completion from Riverside Hospital Tappahannock staff and from Essex County Public School's Superintendent Dr. Scott Burchbuchler and Essex High School Principal, Mrs. Kim Parks, along with Lead Teacher, Mrs. Alyssa Slater.

Dr. Tara Roane, ECPS Director of Special Education and Student Services, leaves these words to the six graduates who exceeded the expectation of this program. *"You worked hard and you did it! Enjoy life to the fullest. May your hopes and dreams become reality. May many doors open for you. Congratulations on all that you have accomplished!"*

