

# The Career Academy at Erwin High

Molding the minds of the future while embracing a culture of diversity that celebrates its successes

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- Work-based Learning program focusing on career and college readiness
- 4 year advocacy program powered by a Graduation Advocate
- Removes obstacles and resolves problems- teaches students to be proactive in their education
- Promotes graduation by helping to reduce the number of students dropping out of high school

## Purpose

**Prepare students for life after high school and being contributing members of society.**



## Strategies for success:

### Carefully Designed Schedules

- Personalized learning plans

### Volunteer Projects

- Community projects, giving back

### Academic Support

- Academic support class and continual progress checks

### Supportive “family”

- All students have a support system of mentor teachers and each other to celebrate their successes and help them when they struggle

# Purpose (continued)

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- Year-long Career Academy classes Freshman year
- Field trips and speakers
  - Exposure to as many careers and people outside of the school is what makes this program different and assists the students in making smart choices
- Job training opportunities
  - Goodwill, Biltmore, Buncombe County Schools



## The Extras

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- EdGE Program- Educating Generations of Employees

- Classroom education
- Hospitality Camp
- Junior Internships
- Apprentices and employment opportunities
- Tours of AB Tech and Biltmore Estate



# The Extras (continued)

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- 25 student cohort enters in 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- Graduation Advocate plans students' schedules and monitors grades and progress towards graduation.
- Graduation Advocate meets with teachers and parents to ensure students are being successful.
- Graduation Advocate plans field experiences and guests speakers
- Graduation Advocate teaches students how to talk with teachers and others to advocate for themselves and remains in constant support throughout four years of school.

## How the program works

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# Successes

## Making a mark on the next generation

- Fifth Year of Existence
- 98% success rate
- Presently have 151 students at all grade levels
- First graduating class (2011-2012 school year)
- Hospitality Camp- paid experience- Level I and Level II students compete for work-based learning internships





# Who These Students Are






- 40 Career Academy students participated
- Results reflective of entire program
- Verified by past application analysis



# Survey


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<b>One or more family adult members are unemployed</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Wants a financially secure career with benefits</b>	<b>100%</b>

# **Employment, Jobs and Financial**


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<b>At least one adult member of the family is disabled and receiving a disability check</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Receives modifications, has medical issues, or takes medication</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>One or more adult members of the family receives a Medicaid check</b>	<b>35%</b>

# **Disability and Medical**


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<b>Worries there won't be money for college</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Family lives in poverty</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Lives in federal housing or a trailer</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Gets free or reduced lunch</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Family has received food stamps</b>	<b>70%</b>

# **Money Issues**


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<b>Close family member died within the last 2 years</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Comes from a single parent home</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Lives with a guardian or someone other than a parent</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Close relative has been in jail/prison within the last year</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>At least one or more parents did not finish high school</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>History of abuse in the family</b>	<b>18%</b>

# Issues at Home


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<b>History of addiction in the family</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Student misses school to take care of siblings</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Has a social worker</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Goes to a counselor regularly</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Has been involved with the courts</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>DSS has been involved with the family</b>	<b>38%</b>

# **Issues at Home cont.**

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<b>Wants to go to college</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Wants a better life than their parents</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Plays on a sports team</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Member of a club</b>	<b>28%</b>

# **Future Dreams and Involvement**

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- Same dreams and aspirations as other teens
- Odds are stacked against them
- Many obstacles to overcome



## **Combating Drop out**

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- Students need ways to develop self through:

- Positive adult attention
- Mentors
- Assistance getting into college
- Incentives
- Job training opportunities
- Volunteer assignments
- After school jobs
- Field trips and speakers
- Careers as they approach graduation



# Combating Drop out (continued)

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# YOU CAN

Become a partner in the endeavor!

Help support the Career Academy

Make a difference in children's lives

Help support a child

Making a difference in someone's life can make an even greater difference in yours

Making a difference in the world is a simple yet powerful task

Even the smallest choice will effect the world in a large way

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