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Statesboro Receives Grant to Increase Career Readiness

Program to Link Student Talents to Career Success

Statesboro High School (SHS) received a state grant to increase students' career readiness through various activities and a computer program specialized for college and career guidance. One of 17 schools in Georgia, SHS received a \$2,950 grant from the Georgia Foundation for Public Education (GFPE) to support student career-readiness activities associated with the YouScience aptitude assessment tool. SHS applied for this grant to sponsor career event and faculty aid to assist students' use of YouScience.

YouScience, a unique college and career guidance platform, is free for middle and high school students in the state of Georgia, thanks to a partnership between the Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) and Technical College System of Georgia. YouScience worked with research foundations and psychometric institutions to create an original algorithm connecting students' natural talents, gifts and abilities with job skills that are essential for career success.

SHS began implementing some of the items associated with the grant last week with 153 freshmen having already taken the YouScience assessment. Their goal is to have at least 75 percent of the ninth graders take the assessment before the end of the school year, said Brian Thomas, SHS counselor.

“We expect to reach approximately 85-90% completion rate with this group,” said Thomas. “Another main event will be our career night tentatively scheduled in early May. The reaction has been very positive.”

The GFPE thanks Georgia Power’s Office of Community and Economic Development who made the grants feasible through its generous donations to GFPE and continual support of Georgia’s future labor force.

“Industry leaders continue to face difficulties identifying talent for current vacancies and jobs of the future,” said Paige Pushkin, GFPE Executive Director. “The GFPE wants to make sure every student can find a career they enjoy while earning a living wage. In partnership with Georgia Power and the GDOE, we are thrilled to provide these grants for schools that want to take student preparedness to the next level.”

The GFPE is the foundation of the GDOE and exists for the single purpose of supporting educational excellence for students in Georgia. [Learn more at GFPE.org](https://www.gfpe.org).

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