



OUR BACKGROUND

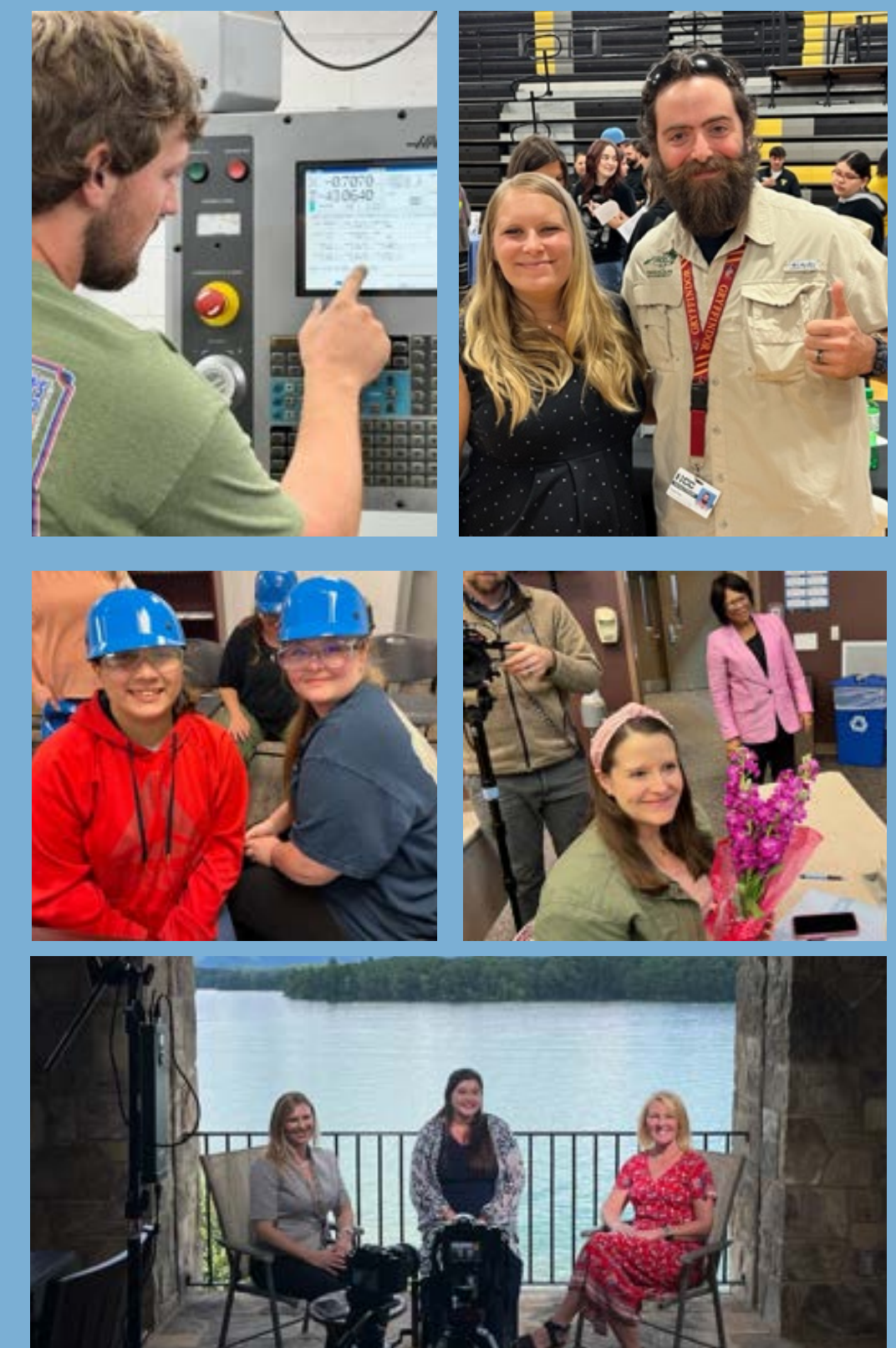
Mission: Identify opportunity youth and engage them in education and career mobility to inspire hope and disrupt the cycle of generational poverty.

Motivation: Collaborate with Key Action Organizations to uplift and engage our young adults who need more support and hope for a better life.




OUR PROGRESS

- Identified 185 of our 240 Goal of Disengaged Youth
- Career Fair - Invited 8 regional high schools and disengaged youth for Pre-employability Skill Workshops and networking with over 100 local employers at local community college.
- Collaborative Team serving 7 Counties: Southwestern Commission Workforce Board, NC Works, Public Schools, GEAR Up!, SCC, HCC, TCCC Community Colleges, WCU, DSS, DHS, JCPC, 30th Judicial Alliance, Latinx communities, Job Corps, Faith Based Organizations, Methodist Churches, parents/guardians, youth representatives 150 regional employers.
- Connected Opportunity Youth with employment, credentialing, and mental health services.
- Pathway Project engaged youth as digital content specialists to share peer stories and employer testimonies on how to re-engage with our community through our collaborative team.
- Included Youth Voices on our collaborative team to learn how they view our workforce and what they need.




WHAT WE LEARNED

Importance of shared data between organizations engaged in this work.

Strengthening our workforce involves removing barriers for as many working-aged individuals to attend college and/or enter the workforce as possible.

Discovered more resources through collaborative meetings with our team members' organizations. Creating opportunities for young people today will have a ripple effect for future generations and disrupt potentially harmful cycles such as poverty, abuse, and substance use.

Collaboration is key to transforming our communities to create a platform where our young people **Thrive!**




PLANS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Achieve HIGHTS! Team 1 is sustaining programs to elevate youth to help them understand they are a valuable part of the community by making resources available for their overall health and well-being as well as developing their goals to participate in the workforce ecosystem.

Our Team deeply believes supporting youth is an investment in our region's future. Data shows us a shrinking workforce, but behind those data points are individual stories of young people struggling to thrive.

Our Collaborative strives to deter all the institutional supports and structures for youth that currently exist within each county and how they can contribute to long-term sustainability.

Our Greatest Strength is our compassion, care, and commitment to our young people and our communities.

Funding is the greatest need to sustain our initiative to provide support to young adults so that they may experience the workforce, develop workforce readiness skills, and attain their educational dreams.

