



In May 2023, Guilford County Schools (GCS), Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department established a registered pre-apprenticeship program with the state of North Carolina through courageous partnership with ApprenticeshipNC. The program is called **Student Opportunities for Apprenticeship Readiness (S.O.A.R.)**. Pre-apprenticeship, also known as Youth Apprenticeship, is a program or set of strategies designed to **prepare individuals to enter and success in a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)**; & is the best pathway to a RAP. The uniqueness of the GCS CTE S.O.A.R. program is student apprentices are **completing CTE career pathways** with industry standards curriculum in the aligned apprenticeable occupation, **participating in a hands-on Level I & Level II (+) course sequence**, inclusive of opportunities to earn industry-recognized credentials & engage in relevant work-based learning, & **gaining direct entry into a RAP upon successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship program**. In its inaugural, S.O.A.R. has **three registered occupations: Diesel Mechanic, Electrician/Maintenance, & Medical Assistant** with three business partners: **Best Logistics Group** (Kernersville, NC); **R.D. Graham Electric, LLC** (Greensboro, NC); & **Bethany Medical** (Greensboro, NC). Employers benefit from apprenticeship programs by having a **skilled workforce, improving productivity, reducing turnover, customizing training, retaining workers, & fostering workplace diversity**. Amid the complex workplace challenges, with a current skills gap, having a **proven strategy for recruiting, training, & retaining skilled talent is so critical**. Registered apprenticeship programs are proven solutions to meeting occupational needs. **S.O.A.R. looks to continue spreading its wings!**

Maegan Wycoff, senior at Weaver Academy is SOAR's first-registered pre-apprentice. Maegan successfully completed the pre-apprenticeship program in the Diesel Technology career pathway. Dr. Holly Pore, Executive Director of CTE was joined by Tiffany Jacobs, ApprenticeshipNC Regional Coordinator, & Chris Martinez, Senior Recruiter with Best Logistics Group to present Maegan with a certificate of completion, & later with Apprenticeship NC graduation cords, at this year's Senior Awards ceremony held in Weaver Academy's auditorium. Recently, Maegan was hired, & accepted, a Diesel Technician job at Transource Trucks.



Congratulations to Maegan Wycoff & best wishes to her along her chosen postsecondary pathway!!!