

With the assistance of \$2,418,343 in YouthCareerConnect (YCC) funds over four years (to be matched by \$836,466 in funds over four years), Putnam County High School (LEA: Putnam County Charter School System—NCES District ID number 1304260), in collaboration with its project partners (Central Georgia Technical College, Middle Georgia Workforce Investment Board (MGWIB), Putnam Development Authority, GA Department of Labor, Eatonton Chamber of Commerce, Putnam General Hospital, Micro Technology, Silva Financial Group, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Georgia Power and Peoples Bank) will launch **YES (Youth Empowered for Success)**. **YES** will serve approximately 225 students in grades 9 – 12 per year attending Putnam County High School (Eatonton, Georgia—population 6,480). Eatonton (poverty rate 29.5%) is located in Putnam County, which has a population of 18,812. Overall, more than 77% of Putnam County High School students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Putnam County and Middle Georgia have high, unmet demand for a technically trained workforce in the following high-growth H1-B fields: Welding, Information Technology and Health Care sectors. **YES** will target each of these industries, offering participating students opportunities to participate in career-focused dual credit courses while participating in a variety of in- and out-of-school work and career learning opportunities. All **YES** students will work towards achieving their high school diploma, while concurrently tackling challenging technical coursework that provides dual-credit towards a college degree or industry certification. Our approach ensures that students are able to apply and practice new skills in workplace settings as they progress through the program. Specifically, **YES** will offer students dual credit courses in three Career Pathways: Welding; Health Occupations (with a focus on therapeutic services); and Computer Science & IT, and Telecom Occupations. While simultaneously earning a high school diploma, **YES** students will be able to earn up to 72 college credits and more than 20 different industry-recognized credentials, including (but not limited to): Welding Certificates; Acute Care

Certificate; Nurse Aide Certificate; Patient Care Assisting; Microsoft Digital Literacy Certification; and Microsoft Technology Associate: HTML5 Application Development Fundamentals certification. All of the courses that comprise **YES** are aligned to rigorous high school, college- and career-readiness standards. The program will take place in a Small Learning Community environment and all students will receive a full spectrum of wraparound support services, including academic support and counseling and will develop an **Individual Learning Plan (ILP)** with the assistance of a Guidance Counselor. Career- and workforce-focused activities will include: job-shadowing; internships; career-focused field trips; monthly in-class career-focused speakers; twice-annual career exploration workshops; college visits; Community Service Learning (CSL) projects; and career mentors. All **YES** partners have been actively involved in its development since the program's inception. Partners will continue to be involved in the project implementation through the **YES Advisory Board**. **YES** will build upon and leverage PCHS' current highly successful dual enrollment program. PCHS currently offers 22 different career pathways for students and has a College and Career Readiness Performance Index of 77.5—the highest in the region. During the first semester of this year, **our first official year with a CCA**, PCHS had more students dually enrolled than any other single high school serving a College and Career Academy in Georgia. In addition, this year PCHS was named as an AP STEM, AP STEM Achievement and Advanced Placement (AP) Challenge school as designated by the College Board. The percentage of our students achieving success (scoring a three or higher) on AP exams **exceeds the state average by 13%** (2013). A new school building is starting construction this spring and will house 4 labs (automotive, health occupations, construction trades and engineering), increasing the number of Career Pathways to 27. For more information about **YES**, contact Barry Lollis, Putnam County High School Principal at barry_lollis@putnam.k12.ga.us.