

YOUTHBUILD UPATE

Michelle Perdue, Youthbuild Coordinator

Student Updates

Nakia Harden, now a YouthBuild Alumni, has been accepted into Marshall University. Nakia's focus of study is in the computer field, and she will earn an Associates Degree in Web Design.

Congratulations are in order for Megan Davis! She has successfully passed her Driver's License examination.



Certificates of Recognition - Were presented for the month of December. Hardest Worker at the construction site was given to Benito Rodriguez. Best Team Player at the construction site was earned by Sarah Morales. Best Attendance went to Megan Davis. Two of the YouthBuild students, Benito Rodriguez and Jason Scarberry, received achievements for Hardest Worker in the GED classroom.

All of the YouthBuild students continue to work hard in the classroom, preparing to pass the GED.

Field Trip

In January, the YouthBuild students and staff took a tour of Pyramid Marble. Lanley Cabell, President of Pyramid Marble, directed the tour, highlighting many different aspects of working at the facility. Cabell explained from start to finish how a product is designed, created, and installed. He emphasized that all employees had to communicate effectively, or a small mistake would create a colossal problem for the business and its employees. When asked by YouthBuild students what kind of qualifications does a person need to work for Pyramid Marble, Mr. Cabell stated, *"The ability to show up and be ready to work are the most important qualifications."*

The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the tour. We thank Lanley Cabell for graciously opening his doors to the YouthBuild program.



Leadership/Personal Development

Students spend half of their day in educational classes and the other half on the job site renovating the Youthbuild house. Every Friday, the YouthBuild students participate in team meetings and leadership development classes. These classes are taught by Tim White and Michelle Perdue and are designed to teach life such topics as communication, anger management, budgeting, goal setting, and overcoming barriers to employment.

Students take part in various activities that are designed to build communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork, and creativity.

For the past few weeks, the YouthBuild students have been focused on learning how to handle conflict by role-playing in an assertive rather than aggressive manner.

They also have been participating in sessions on setting goals and defining life values. In one specific session, students were asked to state what life was like for them now and what it could be in the future. The most revealing part of this task was answering the question of what it was going to take to get the future each desired. Being part of the YouthBuild program is definitely a great place to start!!

