

Chatham Youth gains Valuable Skills through TSWDB Youth Activities

Summer 2013

Donta Cobb is an 18-year old young adult that currently attends alternative high school at SAGE Academy in Siler City, NC. Donta joined the WIA Youth program in search of learning skills that will help him grow into a successful young man. He considers himself to be a natural leader, and seeks to gain increased leadership ability through various skill building activities and workshops. Donta hopes to gain both training and employment in the medical field upon graduation from SAGE Academy.

In the past, Donta has had some trouble academically, which is why his mother decided to enroll him in an alternative school setting with smaller classroom size and a better teacher to student ratio. Donta expressed to his WIA Youth Program Case Manager, Travis Patterson, that he was concerned about his English and Math grades. Although he is not failing, Donta is at risk of failing if he doesn't improve his performance. Travis introduced Donta to Craig Fairbrother, a tutor who will serve as academic support for Donta, as well function as a mentor and positive male role model. This match has been in effect since this April, and thus far, Travis has received nothing but positive reports from his tutor.

Donta also attended the 2013 Triangle South Workforce Development Board Youth Rally. Donta learned many valuable skills pertaining to real world situations employment, including banking and budgeting, career paths, and social skills. Donta completed the "real world simulation" that required him to budget his monthly finances, as well as gathering information on expected finances such as travel, housing, child care, and other real world expenses. Donta left with a much better understanding of why education and training is important in order to provide for him and his family.

