

Harnett County Youth Participant to be Recognized as Outstanding Teen for the Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction

Spring 2016

Sophia McLean came to the Harnett County Department of Workforce Development as a 15 year old who was failing most of her classes and being raised by her elderly grandmother. Once she enrolled into the WIA Youth program, her Case Manager, Anitra Hart, was there to give her the help and support she needed. With additional assistance from her teachers, and through connecting with peer tutors, Sophia was able to raise her grades to a B average by her junior year, and now has an A average in her Senior year.

In addition to making academic progress, Sophia's self-confidence has increased exponentially. Through her participation in Leadership Development activities and exposure to Adult Mentors, Sophia has not only gained confidence in herself, but has developed better social skills, and most importantly, a positive attitude. Her regular workshop attendance has given her the skills needed to become a leader amongst other program participants, and has even volunteered to lead a workshop herself. Sophia has become more dependable, and has learned the importance of being accountable for her actions.



Sophia graduated from Western Harnett High School in June 2016 and plans to enroll in the nursing program at Central Carolina Community College to become a Registered Pediatric Nurse.

In July of 2016, Sophia was selected as the winner of the Governor's NCWorks Award of Distinction – Outstanding Teen. This October, Sophia will be presented with her award at the 2016 NCWorks Partnership Conference Awards Banquet in Greensboro, NC.