



Next Step to Success Weekly Update



A Message from our Executive Director



James Harris

This week at Next Step to Success, we continue to emphasize the critical importance of consistent attendance. Showing up each day remains the foundation for student growth, allowing our youth to fully benefit from academic support, enrichment, and mentorship opportunities that drive success.

I was honored to represent NSTS at a recent Rotary meeting, sharing the impact of our work and the bright future ahead for our students. We also had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Marcia Conston, President of Tidewater Community College, to our campus. She toured our facility, met with our students, and shared her inspiring personal journey over dinner, leaving a lasting impression and motivation for our youth.

We are proud to report that 100% of our students are showing positive academic progress, and our seniors are on track to graduate on time a testament to their hard work and the support systems around them.

Our summer program enrollment is now open, with limited spaces still available, and we encourage families to register soon. Additionally, our Brick Fundraiser is ongoing with each brick purchased becoming a lasting investment in our students' futures.

Finally, thank you to all of our community partners. Your support makes this impact possible.

James Harris,
Executive Director

Welcome to the Team, Mr. Harris!



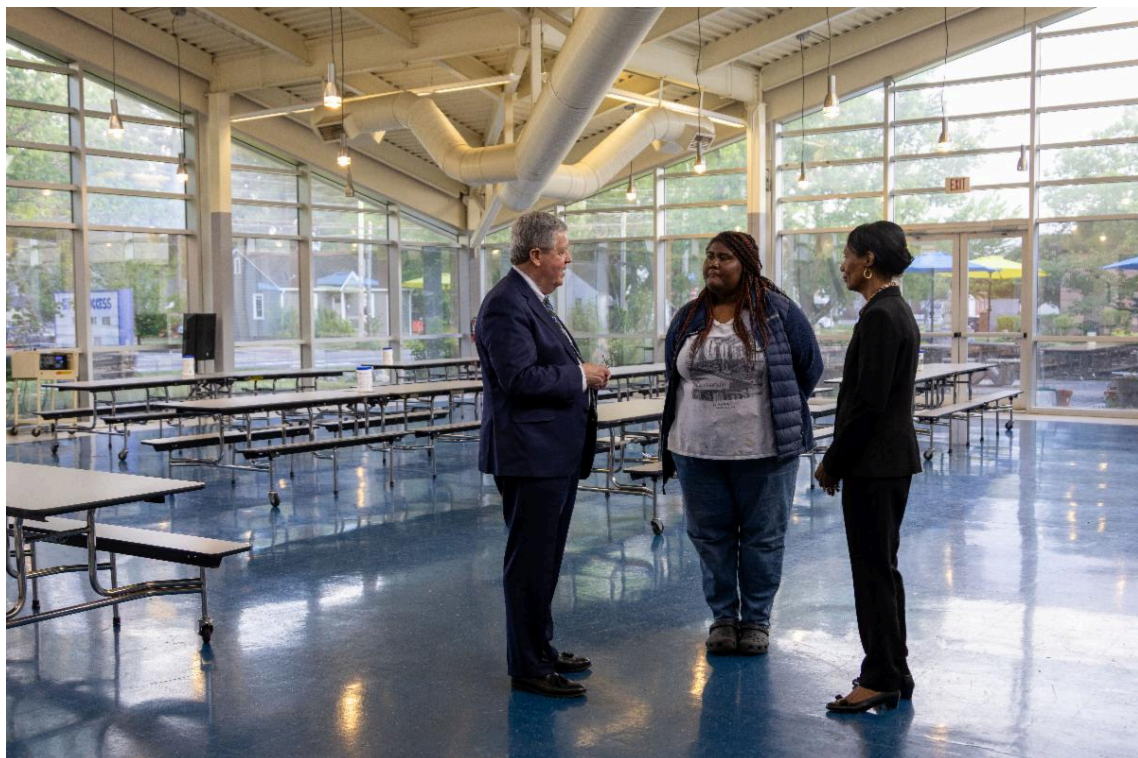
We are proud to welcome Mr. Harris to the Next Step to Success team! From day one, Mr. Harris has brought a strong work ethic, positive attitude, and a level of consistency that truly makes a difference in our daily operations. As a parent of an NSTS alumnus, he brings a personal connection to our mission and a deep understanding of the impact our program has on youth and families. In his role supporting our transportation team, he ensures that our vehicles are cleaned, maintained, and ready to safely serve our youth each and every day—a responsibility that is often behind the scenes, but absolutely essential to the success of our program. His attention to detail and pride in his work reflect the standard of excellence we strive for at NSTS. More than that, Mr. Harris has already proven to be a reliable and valued member of our team, stepping in with a willingness to help wherever needed and contributing to the smooth flow of our operations. We are grateful to have him on board and look forward to the continued impact he will make as part of the NSTS family!

NSTS in Action: Connecting Our Youth to What's Possible

We were honored to welcome Dr. Marcia Conston, President of Tidewater Community College, to Next Step to Success for a powerful and meaningful visit with our youth. Dr. Conston took the time to not only engage with our students, but to truly connect—sharing her personal journey, the challenges she faced growing up, and the perseverance that led her to become a leader in higher education. Her story resonated deeply, reminding our youth that success is not defined by where you start, but by the determination, resilience, and choices you make along the way.

During her visit, Dr. Conston sat with students, listened to their aspirations, and encouraged them to see college and career pathways as real and attainable. Moments like these matter. When our young people see and hear from leaders who have walked difficult paths and risen to positions of influence, it expands what they believe is possible for their own lives.

We are grateful for Dr. Conston's time, authenticity, and commitment to investing in the next generation. This visit was more than a conversation—it was inspiration in action.





NSTS Leadership Insights



Carly Gelles
Director of Education

Hello families,

As we approach the end of the school year, our focus is on helping every student finish strong and remain in good academic standing. Please continue to encourage your child to stay on top of assignments, attendance, and overall effort during these final weeks.

SOL testing begins next week, followed shortly by final exams. These assessments are important—SOLs serve as verified credits toward graduation—so it's essential that students come prepared, well-rested, and ready to do their best. Creating a consistent routine at home and ensuring students have the materials they need can make a big difference.

If your child is facing any academic challenges or if you have questions about grades, promotion, or summer school options, I am available and happy to help.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Let's work together to make sure all students close out the year successfully.



Kaelyn Hundley
Director of Programming

This week truly flew by, and we are continuing to enjoy every moment with our youth. It's hard to believe we only have five weeks left in the program. As we look ahead, we are incredibly excited for what's to come this summer, while also staying focused on finishing the school year strong.

Over the next few weeks, we have some fun and exciting activities planned to celebrate all the hard work our youth have put in. We are committed to making these final weeks both meaningful and memorable.

This week, we were also able to introduce a new partnership. One of our volunteers has begun teaching our youth how to sew, and it has been amazing to see them engage with and learn a brand-new skill. Opportunities like this are so valuable, and who knows—maybe one day they'll be teaching me!

 **Summer 2026 is filling up FAST!**

Spaces for Next Step to Success Summer Camp are limited, and once they're gone—they're gone.

Don't miss out on an 8-week experience designed to challenge, inspire, and empower youth ages 13–18. From daily transportation and meals to engaging programming that builds confidence and leadership, this is more than a summer camp—it's a launchpad.

→  Scan the QR code to apply today and secure your spot!

Your summer starts here... but only if you grab your seat in time!

JOIN US FOR SUMMER 2026!

For Youth Ages 13-18
3401 Tidewater Dr. • Norfolk, VA 23509
(757) 995-2111



Your Summer Starts Here!

Beginning June 15th, youth will embark on an exciting 8-week summer experience designed to challenge, inspire, and empower them to become confident leaders.

What Your Camper Can Expect:

- Daily transportation to and from home
- Breakfast, Snack & Lunch included
- Transportation Pick-up begins at 8:00 AM
- Camp programming: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

GRIT • GROWTH MINDSET • OPTIMISM • SUCCESS • COMMUNITY SERVICE • AGENCY

Culinary Corner

From the Coordinator of Culinary Arts, Chef B



HEY CONFIDENCE CAFE FAMILIES + STAFF!

Happy Spring, y'all! 🌸

We've got **ANOTHER** week of deliciousness, good vibes, and meals made with love just for our Confidence Cafe crew!

Check out this week's
MENU
and get excited! ❤️

#HowYouEating

♥ **MADE WITH LOVE**
Every meal is prepared with care to keep our youth fueled and focused!

★ **FUEL FOR SUCCESS**
Healthy, hearty, and packed with flavor—because you deserve the best!

👥 **TOGETHER WE THRIVE**
Good food. Great friends. Stronger community. That's the Confidence Cafe way!

THANK YOU ❤️
for being part of this amazing family!

🌟 **LET'S EAT, LAUGH & KEEP GROWING TOGETHER!**

👉 **WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE TABLE!** 👈

With love,
The Confidence Cafe Team ❤️

#HowYouEating



From DePaul's Legacy to the Next Generation's Future

NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS

BUY A BRICK!

CEMENT YOUR LEGACY & INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION!



LEAVE YOUR MARK.
Support Next Step to Success and have your personalized brick become a lasting part of our foundation.

**JERRY FITZGERALD
BORN AT DEPAUL
MARCH 25, 1985**

**ORDER YOUR BRICK TODAY!
NEXTSTEPTOSUCCESS.ORG**

Were You Born at the Historic DePaul Hospital?

For generations, DePaul Hospital was more than just a building—it was where families began, where first breaths were taken, and where lifelong stories started. If you or someone you love has a connection to DePaul, this is your opportunity to honor that legacy in a meaningful and lasting way.

Next Step to Success is proud to carry that history forward as we transform this space into a place where young people can grow, learn, and build their futures. By purchasing a commemorative brick, you become a permanent part of this next chapter—celebrating the past while investing in the future of our youth.

Each brick tells a story. Each name becomes part of the foundation.

Don't let your story be left out. Claim your place today!

[Buy a Brick](#)

Next Step to Success | [Website](#)



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