



LEWIS TRANSCONTINENTAL & MATTHEWS GRANITE PARTICIPATE IN ELBERT COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Statements from teachers, Kelly Gary, Deana Crook, & Sarah Fuller from ECCHS, and Tia Wood from ECMS,

“Elberton’s granite industry is so familiar that many people in our community take it for “granite” (pun intended). Our students view the granite industry as a “back up” plan if they decide not to leave Elberton to pursue college or the military. We need to change the community’s mindset. Let’s start with educators...”

“Our takeaway from the experience is problem solving is key and being a team player is critical.”

“Partnering with industries like Matthews International, educators can help facilitate a cultural change to show the granite industry as desirable, dependable, profitable, and varied.”

“We learned that shipping isn’t just about shipping. It is storage, loading, unloading, data entry, organization and teamwork.”

In the beginning of June, a group of teachers from Elbert County embarked on a collaborated effort to shadow a few companies located in the Elberton area for a school project called Elbert County Workforce Development Summer Externship Program. Two of the companies that volunteered to participate with the program was member firms, **LEWIS TRANSCONTINENTAL** and **MATTHEWS GRANITE**. Sarah Fuller with Elbert County Comprehensive High School and Deana Crook with Elbert County Middle School were assigned to Lewis Transcontinental. Owner, Tanner Lewis along with his Office Administrator, Bridgette Eaves spent the week with the teachers as they navigated all of the tasks that go along

with running a trucking company. Kelly Gary with Elbert County Comprehensive High School and Tia Wood with Elbert County Middle School were assigned to Matthews Granite where Donna Young showed the ins and outs of monument manufacturing.

After spending a week with each company, the teachers next task will be to develop a lesson plan for their upcoming classes about entering the workforce. The lessons will include things like safety in the workplace, organizational skills, following OSHA guidelines, along with other tasks. The purpose is to ensure that the children are equipped to graduate and become employees that are relevant and prepared in the workforce.



Kelly Gary, Tia Woods and Donna Young



Bernardo Rodriquez, Deana Crook, Tanner Lewis, Sarah Fuller & Bridgette Eaves