

Expo offers students transitional guidance

By Cassie Gibbs cgibbs@southeast.sun.com | Posted: Monday, March 6, 2017 10:25 am

Enterprise High School students were able to learn about opportunities to be an active part of the community following graduation during the school's Community Transition Expo on Friday, Feb. 24.

"EHS was pleased to host a Community Transition Expo for students and their parents to learn more about services and opportunities for post-secondary education and training, employment, and living independently in the community," special education teacher Alexcia Moore said. "The overall purpose was to prepare students to participate fully in their community after high school."

Throughout the day, students took part in small-group sessions to discuss "transition goals," according to Moore.

During lunch, Alonzo Barkley, principal of Without Walls Academy, motivated students with a speech about using one's circumstances and discipline to achieve goals.

"There are so many different things in your life that want to count you out," Barkley said. "You may not realize when the things are trying to count you out, certain tests in life, it's really a countdown."

He gave a personal testimony of overcoming obstacles in life related to sports, his home life and more, to find personal success.

"There was something that happened around (the time I turned) 14 or 15 that just woke me up," Barkley said. "It was my countdown."

He said situations in life could be used as fuel to overcome obstacles in life.

He named five areas in life that may seem to be factors in counting a person out, but can be used as a countdown to personal success.

First, he mentioned a person's environment influencing his or her success.

"My environment can be a positive thing or a negative thing," Barkley said, stating that family, friends and the people in a person's environment can be used as tools to find success.

Next, he mentioned personal motivation as a factor of success.

"So many people lost that motivation because of tough things in life," he said. "And you really do it with words. Words are really powerful because they can really help you, or they can make you feel like you can't accomplish anything."

Another factor, according to Barkley, is having vision for the future.

"You have to have a clear vision about where you're going," he said. "You have to be intentional about where you're going."

Next, he said support is a factor of personal success.

"You've got to have support," Barkley said. "Those people around you are there to support you. Use the support around you to push you and help you when you need it."

Finally, he said there is only one person that can stand in the way of personal success.

"The main person that's going to stand in the way of you taking off is going to be you yourself," Barkley said.

He encouraged the students to use their life experiences and situations as fuel to "blast off" to success.

After lunch, students then met with community organizations, colleges, and other agencies that would provide help and services to them after graduation.

The community agencies and individuals that participated in the Expo were: Enterprise Career Center, Coffee County Mental Health, Vivian B. Adams School, Enterprise State Community College, Wallace Community College, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, George T. Byrd FAM Foundation, Magnolia Room Catering, State Representative Barry Moore, Sessions Peanuts, Ed Sherling Ford, Coffee County Commissioners Bill Cooper and Eugene Goolsby, Coffee County Constables and former educators.



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Dustin Morgan, Mardarius Johnson, and Zabrian Adams receive college information from ESCC Recruiter Teri Parker.