



## Barrow County School System

Boldly Committed to Student Success

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### **Barrow BOLD District Partnership with Northeast Georgia Health System**

A win-win partnership between the Barrow County School System (BCSS) and Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) was recently established. Becoming a District Partner in Education is a cause for great celebration because students, staff and the Barrow community are the winners! With the initiation of this district-wide partnership Barrow County School System's goal of Building Our Learning Differently aligns nicely with NGHS' mission of "improving the health of our community in all we do."

Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Barrow initiated this partnership in July 2017 and then expanded it in November 2017 with a second district-wide Teacher & Faculty Appreciation gift. NGMC Barrow's co-sponsorship with Brand Bank and Logo Surfing of 2,000 matching surprise shirts following the July 2017 BCSS Back to School Prep Rally was the first step in this budding partnership. The prep rally theme, "Collaboration for Innovation", was at the forefront and enhanced by the additional attendance of long-time partners in education Akins Ford, Chick-fil-A, the Piedmont Regional Library System, Zaxby's, and several others. Winder-Barrow High School staff surprised all in attendance by donning the shirts with the appropriate printed phrase, "The Future of the World is in my Classroom Today!"

From August to October 2017, further discussion ensued about partnering opportunities for students and staff with NGMC Barrow. When the calendar flipped to November 2017, NGMC Barrow again initiated another BCSS staff appreciation gift and student learning opportunity. NGMC Barrow provided a host of gift items, valued at \$10,000, which were hand-assembled into individual bags by Ms. Phillips' STEP class at Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology. After the STEP class assembled the 2,000 "We Are Thankful for You" gift bags, BCSS transported bags to each school and the central office to share with all 2,000 BCSS employees before Thanksgiving break. The STEP class is the Student Transition Enrichment Program that empowers and prepares students with differing abilities for future employment and vocational pursuits. NGMC Barrow collaborated directly with BCSS staff and the STEP Class at SAIT to provide this unique and innovative work simulation and assembly-line skill development training for students that ultimately benefitted all involved.

Through this District Partner in Education Agreement, NGMC Barrow will now sponsor the Nurse's Clinics in each of the 15 schools and 3 additional BCSS programs. NGMC Barrow's community reinvestment of an additional \$10,000 in this endeavor will touch the lives of all Barrow students. Many additional exciting student opportunities and collaborative plans are beginning with NGMC Barrow's

priority of investing in the future of Barrow County students, who will be our community's leaders tomorrow. Soon there will be classroom video conferencing, career day participation, health care speakers, hospital tours, career exploration opportunities, and future student apprenticeships and student scholarships. Also planned for the 2018-19 school year is a joint community awareness and lung-cancer education program with an art competition and gallery exhibition for students. Additional details for this mutually beneficial partnership are to come. Today, we celebrate a partnership that truly benefits all of Barrow County. The future is bright!

To learn more about BCSS and NGMC Barrow please visit [www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us) and [www.nghs.com/barrow](http://www.nghs.com/barrow).

Pictured celebrating this partnership are:

(left to right-front row) Anthony Williamson, Dr. Chris McMichael, Chad Hatfield  
(back row left to right) Vickie Ortego and Debbie Davis, BCSS Lead Nurses; Missy Dorrell, RMS Partner in Education Coordinator; Sunita Singh; Stacy Dupre, HMMS Partner in Education Coordinator; Andrea Pender, BCSS Director of Special Education; Shenley Rountree BCSS Director of CTAE, Ellen Petree, and Sherri Perry, BCSS Dual Enrollment Coordinator and Business Liaison Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology.