

Press Release



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Beekmantown Technology Students Get Rewarded for PPE**

**Plattsburgh, NY – 4/21/2020** – Since the beginning of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Beekmantown Central School Technology students have been going the extra mile. Led by Technology Teacher, Nathaniel Horn, Beekmantown students have come together to address the need and the demand for PPE equipment and the severe shortage that not only our nation is facing, but the shortage that our community is facing.

Putting the skills they've learned in class to action, these students have already 3D printed and assembled over 300 face shields, and they're not done yet. Students, Faculty and Staff are prepared to print PPE until the coronavirus pandemic is no longer a threat.

Their tireless efforts and dedication have been nothing short of inspiring, and now, the students are getting the recognition and reward they deserve.

These students are part of the Ready4Real program created by ETS, aimed at developing work readiness skills for career and life success. Through the Paid Work Experience module of the program, Ready4Real is proving that hard work is rewarding and it also pays off. Thanks to a generous grant from Adirondack Foundation and with contributions from ETS, Inc. all students involved in the project at Beekmantown will be paid for their work.

“Ready4Real is also partially funded through NY State Department of Labor youth funds. Through this partnership, qualifying youth have the opportunity to prepare for and participate in paid work experience. Through this collaboration as well as our partnership with Adirondack Foundation and ETS, R4R is committed to connecting youth with meaningful, real world experiences in career exploration.” Stated Michele Armani, Ready4Real Education Outreach Consultant. “To the credit of the Beekmantown students and Faculty, the R4R students rose to the challenge of putting their skills to work to meet one of the most real world needs facing all of us during the Corona Pandemic, the creation and distribution of PPE. A lesson in how valuable their skills are, and an important lesson in community.”

“The fact that they will be paid means the world to these students.” Stated Nathaniel Horn,

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Technology Teacher at Beekmantown High School. “It’s a time-consuming process, with each shield taking around 2 hours from start to finish. My students have put in a lot of time to ensure this initiative is successful. From understanding the process, learning new software, improving production and assembling the shields - they are certainly deserving of this funding.”

In the midst of navigating their new normal, not only are these students working around 4 hours a day to create PPE, they are also completing their normal schoolwork as well. An admirable feat, and one they were happy to do before they even knew they would be getting compensated.

“It’s nice that we can help out in a time of crisis.” Stated Damien Stutsman, Beekmantown Technology Student. “It gives a better feeling to the whole situation. Rather than sitting at home and not helping, we can come in and make a difference. When we found out we would be getting compensated for our efforts, it was shocking. We weren’t expecting to get rewarded, we were volunteering to help out the community, but it’s very nice to know our efforts are recognized. This experience has been a lot different compared to school, it’s like working a full-time job. Managing our time and coming up with ways to adapt, it definitely gives you the feel of a real job.”

“You have a boss and co-workers that are all working together to solve a greater problem.” Echoed RJ Barcomb, Beekmantown Technology Student. “This initiative is helping a lot of people feel safer in the difficult environment we are currently in. It gives me a reason to get out of bed and stay positive knowing I’m doing my part to solve a problem and help give community members a sense of security.” On getting compensated through Ready4Real, RJ said he was “Ecstatic!”

These kinds of initiatives are what Ready4Real is all about. Combining technical skills with work readiness skills to achieve goals and set a foundation for future success, whether students are entering the workforce after high school or furthering their education. The Ready4Real team, and ETS, could not be prouder of their efforts. Contributing students include Damien Stutsman, RJ Barcomb, Craig Stromback, and Ryan Sexton.

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### **About Ready4Real**

Education Programming Powered by ETS. A series of engaging, interactive career and life preparedness lessons aimed toward high school and college students. A 10-session supplemental curriculum for teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators to get North Country students ready - for real. Based off of the relationship Ready4Real builds with each school, custom program tailored to different needs and objectives is crafted. Students cover a range of work readiness information, from understanding what makes them tick as individuals to the meaning of teamwork and collaboration, working all the way up to resume creation, interview preparation, financial literacy, a capstone networking event, and even the chance to

connect with some of the area's top employers. For more information about Ready4Real, visit [etsjobs.com/ready4real](https://etsjobs.com/ready4real).

**About ETS, Inc.**

Since 1982, ETS has been dedicated to supporting their vision of building world-class teams. ETS is a career hub specializing in creative staffing solutions with 3 dedicated divisions – Professional, Industrial and Office/Administrative. Headquartered in Plattsburgh, NY, their “Hi-Tech, Hi-Touch” model puts people first, and aligns their processes, technology and relationships to meet businesses’ needs. For more information about ETS, visit [etsjobs.com](https://etsjobs.com).