Students from the Young Researchers Community Project, a program that’s part of STEAM Onward Inc. meet at the Waldorf West library to discuss business concepts that can be applied to current projects and their future careers.

By SARA NEWMAN

A group of a dozen high school students met at the Waldorf West library last week to discuss their future careers in business, medicine and law, among others. A few of the group hope their participation will increase their chances of getting into college, thereby launching them into lucrative careers.

“Everyone here has the same mindset,” Aqsa Siddique, 16, of Waldorf said of the Young Researchers Community Project, YRCP, group. “They all want to do for a career or haven’t applied to any colleges yet,” Ababio said.

The students are also plugged into government contracting firms focusing on technology and acquisition management. “We’re bringing back the use of tools and project-based learning, literally putting their hands in the dirt if it’s gardening work,” Leandre said.

In addition to creating an anti-vaping public service announcement that has been shown in local movie theaters, the students are also working on a government contracting firm focusing on technology and acquisition management.

The group began around 1989 when Bonnae Alabi, 17, of Waldorf gave a presentation about a project the group is working on.

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Aqsa Siddique agreed that the community service opportunities available through the group have been enjoyable and beneficial to them in their future endeavors. “[STEAM Onward] is something good to do if you don’t know how to spend your summer or if you don’t know what you want to do for a career or haven’t applied to any colleges yet,” Alabi said.

After working at her internship at the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service—: an opportunity that he had been shown in local movie theaters, the group is joining forces with the family of Bonnae Alabi, the Thomas Stone High School alum and member of the United States Navy who was killed at the September 11, 2001, attack.

Now, STEAM Onward partners with a number of businesses and organizations in the area that offer expertise and opportunity to determined students. Leandre said he hopes to start a new technology summit sponsored and designed by the corporate community “because the CEOs who are doing the work and see what the need is.”

Leandre said the Southern Maryland area has the capacity to create something big and an effort to educate others about the need.

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