

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Wilcox Student Sets Sights on Politics

Eugene “Zach” Bertrand is an automotive technology trade student at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School and a Meriden resident.

Everything Zach does - from car repairs for customers at the school, and serving as cadet commander of the local U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, to mentoring youngsters at the Boys and Girls Club, and weekend campaigning to improve his hometown - he does with one thing in mind: helping others reach their highest potential.

“I’ve always wanted to help people,” Zach said. “Everyone has different strengths...everyone has a purpose.”

A turning point for Zach came after participating in a panel discussion during Governor Ned Lamont’s education forum where Zach spoke publically about the importance of hiring minority teachers and equality in education.

“After the governor’s panel, I realized that I want to be an advocate for people,” Zach said. “People are nervous to speak out about things, so I’ll be the one to do it.”

Zach plans to attend college next fall to study public relations and marketing. He’ll use those skills to work his way to his dream job as a State Senator.

When asked about the benefits of attending a technical high school, Zach shared that all of his experiences have taught him leadership, teamwork and people skills. He also felt strongly about the opportunities provided at a tech school, and the automotive skills that he’ll use throughout his life that will benefit him and his family.

“Kids can get more if they come to a technical high school,” he said. “We get out with a better education – we don’t get one degree, we get two.”