National ‘Breakthrough’ Award Shines Light on William Smith High School

The students and staff at William Smith High School don’t run from challenges, and their determination to overcome obstacles has not gone unnoticed.

The MetLife Foundation and National Association of Secondary School Principals recently named William Smith a 2014 Breakthrough School. The award recognizes middle and high schools across the country for their strong academic success in the face of challenges that result from high student poverty rates. William Smith has shown continuous growth on state assessments during at least the last three years and made progress toward reducing the achievement gap.

As one of nine schools to earn the award, which includes a $5,000 grant from the MetLife Foundation, NASSP will officially recognize William Smith at the organization’s Ignite 2014 Conference in Dallas in February.

Executive Internship Program Grooming Students for Life After High School

APS students are graduating from high school more prepared than ever for college and careers, thanks in part to the Executive Internship Program.

Offered through a partnership with Pickens Technical College, the program gives high school students the opportunity to spend one or two semesters working in business organizations, government and community agencies, educational institutions or other areas. Although intern responsibilities differ greatly from site to site, students generally serve as special assistants to team members, attending meetings and conferences, preparing reports and participating in organizational activities.

All interns attend weekly seminars on communication skills, human relations, leadership development and career exploration. Students refine their social and intellectual skills and initiate their own learning experiences.

Interns may also earn awards for completing 100 or more hours of community service.