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A logistical dream for high school



Ring Power Lift Trucks donated the use of one of their forklifts on Tuesday to the Columbia High School Logistics Academy for the academic year. Pictured are Michael Friedman (center left), of Ring Power Lift Trucks, handing over the keys to the forklift to CHS Global Logistics Academy instructor Rebecca Golden and CHS principal Terry Huddleston, surrounded by Logistics Academy students. Todd Sandlin (not pictured), vice president/regional manager of the Ring Power Lake City Branch, was instrumental in the school receiving the forklift.
JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

CHS Global Logistics Academy given use of Caterpillar forklift.

By [TONY BRITT](#)

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The Columbia High School global logistics program literally got a lift from a local business that may pay dividends far into the future.

Ring Power, the Caterpillar dealer for North and Central Florida, is donating use a Caterpillar forklift to CHS for the entire school year. The forklift is valued at \$20,000.

Tuesday afternoon Ring Power representatives, CHS Global Logistics Academy students and school district administrators and officials held a brief ceremony with the forklift as the main attraction.

Rebecca Golden, the Columbia High School Global Logistics Academy teacher, said the forklift donation will help the program because students will now have the opportunity to train and get forklift certification.

"We'll also be able to continue our project with First Book, receive shipments in our warehouse, send shipments out and this will make it a lot smoother process and it will give the kids more employability skills as well," she said. "The forklift is really going to add to our program because we're going to be able to train the kids on another skill but also work with our projects like First Book and the Rotary Club Dictionary project."

Terry Huddleston, Columbia High School principal, was pleased with the donation and spoke about the forklift's impact on the school's logistics program.

"The business partnership with Ring Power and the donation of the forklift is one of the final pieces in the progression of our logistics and distribution warehouse," Huddleston said. "We're very excited that Ring Power has come on board as a business

partner. Working together with them it will provide opportunities for our students to become forklift certified and provide them viable skills to enter the workforce.”

The refurbished yellow CAT forklift weighs around 9,000 pounds.

Golden said Todd Sandlin, of Ring Power, headed up the project and kept it going.

“This was Ring Power stepping up to the plate and helping us out and being a fabulous business partner,” she said.

Sandlin, Ring Power regional manager, said Ring Power was pleased to help.

“The high school has started a good logistics program for the kids and Ring Power was glad to be able to help out,” Sandlin said, noting the donation could become a long-term arrangement.

The Columbia High School Global Logistics Academy program is three years old and started with 53 students. The program now has 124 students.

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