

Future Workforce – Summer and Year Round News

Feb/Mar 2008

Tier III – Career Exploration

Year-Round Career Experiences are
Really Cooking Now



On February 28th, 13 youths from the Pathways/Senderos Center in New Britain had the opportunity to tour the Connecticut Culinary Institute (CCI) in Hartford. — continued on pg 2

And at Our Piece of the Pie, Something Else is Cooking... Scratch Batch Kids, OPP's Culinary Youth Business, had very successful Valentine's Day and Holiday Bake Sales. Participants baked, decorated, marketed and sold hundreds of cookies at OPP offices and various locations in Hartford. The events brought in more than \$600 dollars.

*Victor Larregui,
a student at
Bloomfield High
School, rolls out
the dough for a
Holiday Bake Sale*



Career Connections –
A.I. Prince Tech Students Visit ING



In February, Bethany Follett of A.I. Prince Tech and others brought students to ING for a day of Job Shadowing. "The three students I took to ING for the Job Shadow Day enjoyed themselves immensely and were very impressed by what ING offered them. They all said they learned a lot and look forward to other opportunities.

The hosts were very gracious and really took time to speak with the students about what they are learning. My students are busy today writing thank you notes to ING for the opportunity," said Bethany.

Shown here (l-r):

*Darrell Murphy –
A.I. Prince; Cynthia
Lemus – AI Prince;
Rosalyn Hooks –
ING Job Shadow
Coordinator;
Quasian Douglas –
A.I. Prince*



Future Workforce initiatives including year round career explorations and Career Connections are convened and funded by Capital Workforce Partner and delivered by our exemplary partner agencies.

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Year Round Career Experiences are Really Cooking Now

These teens were given a tour of the entire facility, had a chance to talk with admission staff and were treated to a great meal in the Institute's dining hall. High School Coordinator Nick Jakubowski scheduled the tour so the students could learn more about culinary arts as a career choice. Tour guide and Admissions Counselor Melanie Lamb gave them an insightful look. Freshman Daniel Burgos said that he is "seriously considering exploring a career in culinary arts because of this experience at the institute."

40 Career Connections Participants and 25 Employer Representatives participated in our Networking 101 session held on Thursday March 6th at CT Business and Industry Association. The students were from A I Prince Tech, Hartford High, Bulkeley, Weaver, Manchester, Sports and Medical Sciences, Classical Magnet, OPP and Enfield High. Employers, some with several representatives, participated from each of the following companies: AdChem Manufacturing Technologies; AT&T; Fuss & O'Neill Technologies; Home Goods Distribution Center; Shop Rite; Mt Laurel Sr. Living Center; Aetna; Htfd Board of Education; City of Hartford Fire Department; Travelers; Hartford Courant; CarMax; Whittlesey & Hadley; CT Business and Industry Association.



Career Connections students from Sports Medical Sciences Academy have been accepted to the following colleges:

- Quinnipiac University
- University of Connecticut
- Temple Univ.
- Central, Eastern, and Western CT State Universities
- Rochester Polytechnic Institute
- University of Hartford
- Drexel
- Howard University
- Univ.. Of Maryland
- Univ. of Pennsylvania
- Hampton University
- Virginia State Univ.
- Univ. Of South Carolina
- Univ. of North Carolina
- John's Hopkins

We are still waiting to hear from some Ivy League schools including Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia. Carlos Perez, a senior and second-year Career Connections participant is waiting to hear if he has been accepted into the INROADS program.

Other OPP News

- **It's in the Cards...** OPP's Junior Art Makers (JAM) also designed and created greeting cards for the OPP Holiday Sale. Sutawany Mendez was one of four students whose design was chosen for the sale. Sutawany's collage print is nearly sold out!

*Sutawny Mendez
designed JAM'S
most popular
greeting card.*



- **Going Green....** River Wrights Boat Builders, OPP's carpentry youth business, has expanded to include Science on the River. Science on the River works with state and local agencies to study and collect data used to improve the region's environment. Participants have begun a quarterly newsletter called "Shades of Green" informing other youth about ways to protect the environment.
- **Making a Difference....** Our Piece of the Pie JAMS participant Sylmerriss Jackson is a senator in the Connecticut YMCA Youth and Government Mock Legislative Program. Sylmerriss, a 14-year-old student at the Metropolitan Learning Center in Hartford, helped write legislation that would provide more support for grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Sylmerriss participated in a mock legislative session at the State Capitol on March 8th and 9th. The bill she helped craft will be considered by the real state legislature!

Blue Hills Civic Association – has a Slight Edge



The Slight Edge program started on October 25, 2007. The goal of this program is to help us plan our future. Not only to work with each other and strive for the future, but to work hard for the future and get a proper education that will benefit us in the future. The Slight Edge is a program that not only challenges us with our knowledge, but lets us do things that we have never done before. *Pictured here is this article's author and program participant, Tevin Spence*

Upcoming Programming for Year Round Youth

- Mar 13 – Guest Speaker – Youth Serv Bur – Fuss & O'Neill – Bus. Cluster - Tech
- Mar 19 – Guest Speaker – Weaver – CT Law Offices of Thom Page – Bus. Cluster - Law
- Apr 3 – Guest Speaker – CREC Youth- Sovereign Bank – Business Cluster - Ins / Finance
- Apr 8 – Tour – CREC Youth – Travelers - Business Cluster - Ins / Finance
- Apr 9 – Tour – CREC Youth - Enterprise Rent A Car - Business Cluster – Retail/Hospitality
- Apr 21 – Tour – Pathways Senderos – Aetna – Business Cluster Health/Insurance

Career Connections and Year Round School-To-Career Programming. What's it all About?

In response to feedback from business leaders and recruiters, as well as from the region's young people, particularly in the urban areas that Capital Workforce Partners serves, there has been a shift to a year-round focus for future workforce development. Experiences in the private sector are made available to high school seniors through Career Connections and to younger students through Year Round Youth Employment and Learning Initiatives. An adjunct to the sought after Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program which provides learning and employment opportunities to youths 14+ (Tiers 1 – 3), **this top end Tier 4 program and year round opportunities aim to provide additional, meaningful exposure to the private sector workplace** through a number of high-touch initiatives such as:



- Career Exploration Days
- Job Shadowing Opportunities
- Field Trips and Company Tours
- Internships and Pre-Apprenticeships
- And, more.



The **Career Connections^{IV}** was launched in the Fall of 2006, and year round initiatives were expanded this school year. To obtain more information, contact Program coordinator Dennis Mink at 860-522-1111 x343 or dmink@capitalworkforce.org.

A Glimpse at the 2007/2008 Year

December 2007 – Assessment of Student Skills and Interests	March 2008 – Mock Interviews; Continued Assessments
January 2008 – Job Readiness Training Workshops – Resume Writing; Dress for Success; Interviewing Skills; Job Retention Strategies; Career Growth Planning	April 2008 – Career Exploration Expo – Wed. April 30 3pm – 5pm – One Union Place, Hartford
February 2008 – Job Shadowing Opportunities, Workshops and Follow-Up	May/June 2008 – Job Search, Potential Placements and Continued Career Counseling to Jump Start a Successful Career.

Would you like to submit an article to the Career Connections Newsletter? Simply send an email to: srodriguez@capitalworkforce.org Be sure to include your name, title, and contact information.