

Coventry students explore future career choices

Speakers come to Coventry High School throughout the year

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COVENTRY—When it comes to choosing a future career, students at Coventry High School have been getting some extra guidance.

Throughout the entire school year, juniors and seniors participate in various Career Speaker Series activities to broaden their exposure to future career options, according to Donna Hutson, the school based coordinator.

She explained that there are 16 “career clusters” that encompass the various job fields that a student may enter after high school or college. Amongst the 16, there are five clusters that are considered the growing fields: health science, architecture and construction, information technology, law and public safety and business.

The program was designed to bring “as much exposure to the different careers as pos-

sible,” said Hutson. She explained that in addition to the speaker series, the school has a career fair in the spring and an options fair geared towards the various trades.

On Tuesday, an anatomy class, forensics class and the health career students at the high school attended a presentation by Ruth Riccirelli from the Hospital Association of Rhode Island.

Riccirelli gave information on career options in the healthcare field, including doctors, nurses and multiple other opportunities in the industry.

Guidance Counselor Amy Siemmaso estimated that between 50 and 70 students attended.

“A lot of students stayed after for questions,” she said, later adding that there is “a big demand in Rhode Island in healthcare. It served its purpose.”

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On Thursday afternoon, juniors and seniors at Coventry High School participated in a “big business activity” during their Career Speaker Series.

Career options discussed at Coventry High Thursday

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On Thursday afternoon, a group of juniors and seniors heard from General Dynamics and Electric Boat on entry-level positions available after high school. A maintenance electrician, multi-trade apprentice fitter, electrician and painter spoke to the students on their experiences with the company.

Prior to their employment at General Dynamics, "many of them were dishwashers, in the restaurant business or construction. Now, at Electric Boat, they are looking at management opportunities," said Courtney Murphy, the chief of Human Resources at the company.

After hearing the speakers, the students participated in a "big business activity" to show them the importance of building efficiently with good quality materials, said Murphy.

The groups of six were each given a set of legos and told to build a tower as tall and efficiently as possible. The lego sets were each valued at 50 cents and their labor valued at \$1.50. At the completion of the activity, the groups calculated their efforts with a return on investment equation.

The project served to illustrate how they can get the most return possible for their efforts and material, according to Murphy.



Lauren Knight • Daily Times

Thursday, Coventry High juniors and seniors listened to people from General Dynamics and Electric Boat about future employment opportunities.

On Friday, Nov. 18, Mayor Allan Fung of Cranston will come to the school to talk about his career and discuss opportunities in public service.

"We try to hit all of the 16 career clusters," said Hutson. The goal is for the students to have as much "information as possible so they can make choices about their future careers and how to plan for

them."

Future activities include a visit and tour of the New England Institute of Technology, Superior Court and Workers' Compensation Court in Providence.

"They will have [the opportunity] to see all of the different careers and what takes place in the courtroom, like the lawyers, judges and court clerks," said Hutson.