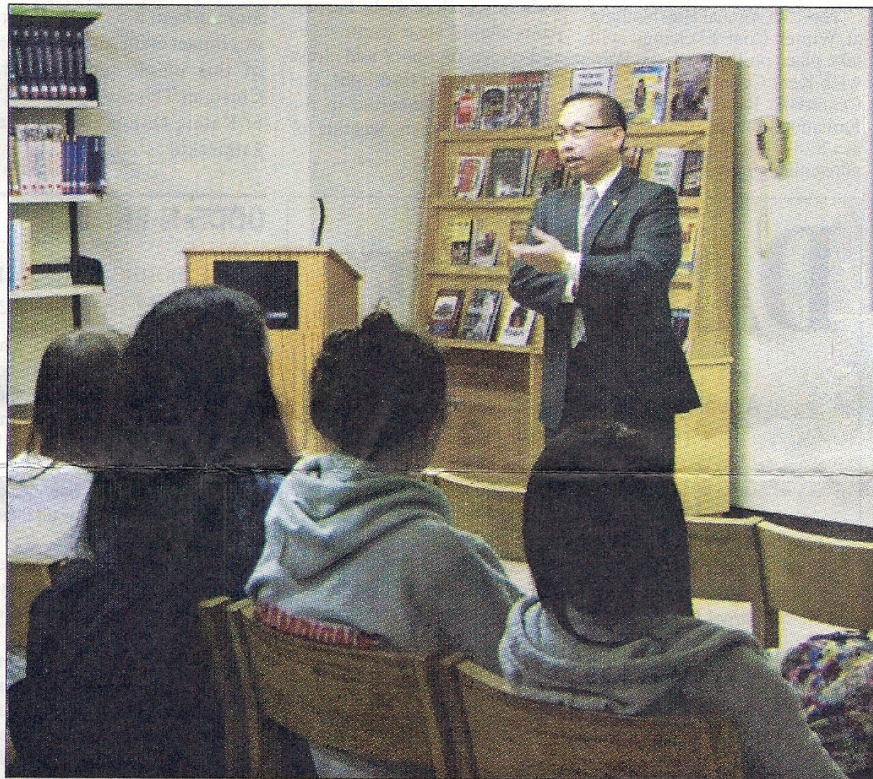


Cranston mayor visits Coventry High School



Lauren Knight/Daily Times

Cranston Mayor Allan Fung speaks to students at Coventry High School on Friday afternoon during the Career Speaker Series..

Students hear about a future career in public service

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COVENTRY—On Friday afternoon, Coventry High students were given a sneak peak into what a future in public service looks like, particularly, the career of a mayor.

Cranston Mayor Allan Fung came to the high school as a part of the Career Speaker Series. Throughout the year, the faculty runs the program to give students “as much exposure to the different careers as possible,” Donna Hutson, the school based coordinator, previously told the Times.

The program is geared towards juniors and seniors in select classes and some sophomores who show an interest in the particular career path.

On Friday, an ethics class,

English class and Italian class attended the presentation. Dolores O’Rourke, the library media specialist at the school, stated that some individual students interested in public service also attended the activity.

Fung came from humble beginnings, said O’Rourke. “He is really a role model for our students.”

Fung greeted the students and explained that he was born and raised in Providence. He was the first generation of his family in the U.S. when his family came from China in 1969.

He said that, after high school, he knew that he wanted to go to college to become a lawyer. He attended Rhode Island College and became involved in the student government.

“I started learning what it

meant to give back,” said Fung, later adding that he learned about “what it means to be an advocate for people.”

He later attended law school. Fung attributes much of his experience to his foundation, saying that he was thankful for all of his high school teachers.

“One day, hopefully, this class will have some town mayors or administrators,” he said to the students.

According to Fung, this was his first visit to Coventry High School. The goal, Fung said, was to hopefully inspire some of the students to give back to the community.

He hoped to give students insight into what he does everyday as a mayor and his past, given his “unique background,” he said.

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Career Speaker Series brings Mayor Fung to CHS

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When Fung was invited to the school, he said that he was "happy to oblige."

"My goal is to hopefully inspire maybe one student," he said. "We all know how we need good people in public [service]."

Hutson previously told the Times that the school focuses on the 16 "career clus-

ters" that encompass the various job fields that a student may enter after high school or college. The five clusters considered the growing fields are health science, architecture and construction, information technology, law and public safety and business.

"We try to hit all of the 16 career clusters," Hutson had said. The goal is for the students to be exposed to as

much information as possible to help them make decisions about a future career path.

The yearlong program includes both in-school presentations and fieldtrips. Future activities include a visit and tour of the New England Institute of Technology, Superior Court and Workers' Compensation Court in Providence.