

College and Career Thursdays: A Success by Tawanya Rather*September College and Career Thursday*

As I stood and watched our future leaders of America, I pondered on where life would take them: nurses, doctors, lawyers, future Verizon employees – the list went on and on. WAVE (Women's Association of Verizon Employees) and DRUM (Developmental Roundtable for Upward Mobility) came to assist the junior and senior classes of ACCE with filling out their college applications, answering ques-

tions they had about college, and trying to prepare them, and their parents, for the journey on which they are about to embark: LIFE AS AN ADULT...

The WAVE and DRUM volunteers started by separating the juniors into 10 groups which consisted of 7-8 students each. The groups each had their own objectives on what they wanted to gain from the sessions. Each student had the ambition to become a leader in the field of study they were pondering. Each Verizon volunteer also had a goal, making sure each student walked away that day with knowledge to begin planning their future career or higher educational path.

Some presenters concentrated on filling out the college application and

making sure that each student knew what was needed in order to get accepted. Other groups concentrated on the high school experience and how the things they did today would set the stage for what would happen in their future. They stressed that extracurricular activities as well as good grades were key to getting into the college of their dreams. All spoke on the importance of meeting deadlines, taking the SAT (more than once if necessary), and writing good essays. Later that evening, volunteers from WAVE spoke with the senior class and their parents. We did a brief overview of the workshop booklet and then allowed an open forum for parents to voice their questions.

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Hyatt Internships Start Out Strong by Sally Birmingham

My experience working with the students of ACCE over the last two years has been very enjoyable. The Hyatt Regency Baltimore thoroughly enjoys seeing the teens come in on Wednesdays and working in different departments throughout the hotel. We usually meet for thirty minutes in the morning and afternoon. During the morning time, we will talk about how the students are doing in school and any classes they may need help in. In the afternoons we will talk about their day and finish any assignments they need to complete. Each student has a book with a calendar for the year including: their weekly rota-

tion, questions they should be asking in each department, and assignments they need to complete.

We feel that the students are the future of the hospitality industry and it is our responsibility to make sure they get the experience they need to be successful in this industry. As they rotate through different departments they give feedback about which areas they liked and didn't like. The last two months of the program they will get to spend time in the areas that they liked the most.

In addition to the students coming in on Wednesdays and doing their internship, Hyatt also helps them in other classes.

Currently, the students and I are reading *Anna's Story* by Jenna Bush and discussing it for their English project due in late November. They are responsible for reading the book and answering questions on the book. On Wednesdays, we discuss what they have read.

We offer summer jobs to the students that do well in the internship. Last year we hired one of the students full time in our restaurant and the money she made helped pay for her mission trip to Central America. Hyatt looks forward to continuing its partnership with the ACCE Academy.

Internship Corner: A Message from Ms. Ellison

Ahh, internship. To many students, this topic is both a blessing and a curse. This year has really been about helping to form the internship program into a substantial work-based learning course. However, there have been struggles just as any young program will encounter. Almost 85% of the junior class is firmly placed at sites throughout the city. Internship sites range from hospitals to hotels to office sites to cable TV stations to children's programs and many more.

Many of the students not placed have already been inter-

viewed. However, some of the mentors decided not to take an intern at this time. All of the students are extremely focused and those who are not placed are diligently checking with me daily. I am still looking to find the right companies to care for and nurture this very special junior class.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all of those mentors who have put so much time and energy into making this internship process meaningful and exciting. Students are bringing back wonderful stories of their experiences. For instance, one student has been able to

intern at a popular Baltimore newspaper and has been exposed to all levels of the publishing process. Another student has discovered a previously unknown interest in the ability to update and repair old computers.

Learning happens everyday in internship. Some days it consists of specific skills that are taught. Other days it may simply be how to keep ones' self busy on a very slow work day. Every part of the learning process is essential for our students as they prepare for their next stage of life and their future in an ever changing world.

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Career Corner: A Message from Mr. Zesiger

As the students, staff, and families prepare to make history and graduate our first senior class, the career and college exploration elements of ACCE have never been more necessary or in a state of such growth. The first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year has been witness to many incredible accomplishments. The first two College and Career Thursdays have connected ACCE students with nearly 100 local professionals, 85% of juniors were engaged in their junior internships by October 1, 2007, and practically all seniors have attended a MOED Career Center as well as completed one or more college appli-

cations.

This success is a testament to the dedication of ACCE staff members, community and business partners, families, and the students. As William S. Frank said, “The goal of career development is to uncover one's gifts and passions, and to link them to the practical needs of the world”. ACCE and our numerous partners are diligently working with our students to help them discover these passions and then seek means for practical application of their energy and interests.

Despite the successes experienced thus far, many challenges remain. It is important to

note that college and career exploration is not the same as college and career readiness. In order to strengthen the exploration component of our school's name, we must continue to develop the college and career readiness of our students. To obtain success with this endeavor, we must deliberately partner with business and community members as well as strengthen instructional practices to passionately educate students who are consistently and conscientiously able to demonstrate appropriate behaviors and skills in educational, workplace, and social settings.





Salisbury University Junior Class Trip by Sharlene Lindsay

On October 25, the ACCE juniors took a trip to Salisbury University. Everyone was excited, not only because we would be able to get out of school that day, but because it would be the beginning of a school sponsored search for just the right college. During the three hour ride to Salisbury, students started to get a little worried about the school's location. Familiar things started to disappear and it seemed as if we were headed for the woods or a bunch of farm land. Once we made it to the Eastern Shore our worries began to disappear because we were now able to see that it wasn't such a bad location after all.

Once we arrived at the school we were all a little tired and hungry, but we were ready for what was to come next. Before we began our tour of the school we had lunch in the cafeteria. We went crazy after observing that they had a buffet for their lunch. We went for plate after plate until we could not eat anymore. The lunch room was the major turn on about the school because you had the option of eating a large variety with almost anything you wanted. The trip was going well at that point. Then we were put into different groups and showed typical dorm rooms. That was the thing that made everyone want to turn around and say "oh

no not me." The rooms were the size of a walk-in closet with two or maybe three feet added. And get this: two people shared that same room! There was no space to decorate or make the room yours. Plus, there was no way to have your friends over without your roommate knowing. It was just crazy. The bathrooms were located down the hall, so that if you have to shower or use the bathroom late at night you had to walk down the hall! Now I know it seems terrible, but our tour guide did assure us that you don't have to get a room like this but you would have to apply for a larger room (and yes it would cost more) or you could just get a room with three people in the room and their rooms are much larger. The good thing about the dorms is that you don't have visiting hours which means that your friends can come over and stay as late as they want and they could even spend the night! The only thing is that they can't stay more then two nights in a row.

Although the school is 80% white they do have other races there. Salisbury is a public school but offers private school education. The campus is very friendly and it seemed as if every student that you see is willing to greet you with a "hi". Salisbury is a great school for students that want to major in teaching or business. The campus is not so



<http://www.salisbury.edu/>

large that you would get lost looking for a building. Everything seemed to be in one big circle according to your major. The class sizes were very small so you won't feel like just a number but you'll feel like a student who can have a one-on-one relationship with your professor. The student to professor ratio is 27 to 1. Salisbury allows you to come straight out of high school with as many college credits as you please. That means if you're a high school student and you're taking AP classes now and you receive college credit you can take every credit with you to Salisbury. Room and board and tuition costs are very cheap compared to most private schools as well as other public schools. The costs typically range from three to four thousand a semester. Salisbury was such a great trip for our class. Many ACCE juniors now believe that Salisbury is a safe school and one that interests them. We, the juniors, can't wait to see where the next college trip will take us.

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Reflections on College and Career Thursdays continued

As a part of the initiative we had the opportunity to partner with the Leadership Education and Development Program in Business (LEAD) and invited one of its programming coordinators as a guest to come and speak to the junior class. She spoke about LEAD and the steps students needed to take in order to enroll into the program. Our LEAD representative

also stressed the importance of their choices made now and how they can impact the future. She was even gracious enough to stay and speak briefly to the senior class and their parents! We offered families information on programs that were available and answered questions.

Overall, the members of WAVE and DRUM thoroughly enjoyed their day with ACCE

and are looking forward to coming back! Helping our youth, our future, to grow into outstanding leaders of tomorrow is what we thrive on and it's part of the old saying, "It takes a community (village) to help raise a child." We are proud to help serve as partners in that community for ACCE!

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The Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE) aims to help Baltimore high school youth develop a love of learning, a constructive direction for their lives and a belief in their own abilities to succeed by promoting academic success through the lens of the careers of the 21st Century. This career exposure intensifies with each year of high school.

For 11th grade, ACCE offers students the opportunity to explore their career interest through the internship program. This program is designed to help students build knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of authentic work. By making the learning process real, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and become inspired life-long learners.

For more information about the career connections or internship programs, please contact:

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ACCE AIMS TO HELP
BALTIMORE HIGH
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News and Updates from the School

PARENT/COMMUNITY RESPONSE CENTER NOW OPEN!

Parents, caregivers and members of the school community can bring school-related concerns to the immediate attention of district officials by calling **443-984-2020**. The Parent/ Community Response Center will be open weekdays from 8:30 am – 8:00 pm and from 8:00 am-12:00 pm on Saturdays.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 22-25	Thanksgiving Break
November 29	College and Career Thursday
December 20	College and Career Thursday
Dec 24-Jan 1	Winter Break
January 7-11	HSA testing
January 14-17	Final Exams
January 18	2nd Quarter ends



Principal— Ivor Mitchell

ACCE is sponsored by:

The Baltimore City Public School System
The Mayor's Office of Employment Development
The Sar Levitan Center of The Johns Hopkins University, Institute for Policy Studies