

School-to-Career Connecting Activities 2010

Legislative Site Visits



Berkshire

March 1st, Representative Smitty Pignatelli (Southern Berkshire) visited two School-to-Career internship sites through Lenox High School. Two high school seniors are working for LTI Smartglass (www.ltisg.com) in the manufacturing and marketing departments and another high school student is interning as an art teacher's aide at Morris Elementary School. The Representative was truly impressed with the program as a whole, especially the strong business support of the internship programs in the region and the high quality work experiences that students are being exposed to.

On March 5th, Senator Benjamin Downing visited Pittsfield high school interns, one male student who is working as a chef at the Heritage Tavern in Lenox, MA, and two students are working as Certified Nursing Assistants at Berkshire Place in Pittsfield, MA.



Left: Group photo at LTI – LTI employees, Stephanie Sears (Lenox Internship Coordinator), Tyler & Jared (student interns) and Rep. Pignatelli (end right); Center: Rep. Pignatelli participating in the art activity at Morris Elementary School; Right: Senator Benjamin Downing with the CAN interns at Berkshire Place.

Central Massachusetts

On March 9th, Representatives John Fernandes and Jennifer Callahan visited Hopedale High School, discussing the program merits with two students who are participating in this year's program. The students highlighted their strong support because it has allowed them to focus on their future goals and ambitions as they approach the end of their high school careers. The coordinators of the School-to-Career program, as well as the principal of Hopedale High School and the Superintendent, were there to discuss the importance of these types of programs to the students. The Representatives conveyed a strong interest in the long-term success of the program and were very engaged with the staff who oversee the program, especially Sue Gately from the Blackstone Valley Education Center who was instrumental in setting up the visit and the presentation.

Franklin Hampshire

On March 15th Representative John Scibak visited Big E's Supermarket in Easthampton. Easthampton senior Nina Patnod is able to work from 10:30am to 2pm, gaining work experience, a wage, a grade and school credit. [Watch the video coverage here.](#)

Greater New Bedford

In early March, the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (WIB) organized a School-to-Career Connecting Activities site visit for local legislators. Representative Stephen Canessa; New Bedford City Councilor Steven Martins; and aides from Representative Antonio Cabral's and Senator Mark Montigny offices made the site visits. The group began the visit at the Capeway Veterinary facility in Fairhaven, MA where they met Lacey Brum, a student who has been working throughout the year as a veterinary intern. Lacey revealed that her experience encouraged her to apply to college. She has been accepted to Salem State College and intends to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Veterinarian Dr. Philip Gaudet, and Practice Manager Cindy Brehaut praised Lacey, stating that interns initially shadow the technicians and veterinarians, but many are able to perform higher level functions over time. Lacey has been a "quick study" and a tremendous asset to the animal hospital. She has found the Connecting Activities experience extremely rewarding and plans to work part time at Capeway over the summer.



Front row, from left to right: Stephanie Barnes, Chamber Employer Specialist; Peg Curro, BCC; Jean Fox, WIB; Lacey Brum, student intern; and Zelia LaGarde, BCC. In the second row, I have Rep. Stephen Canessa; Roy Nascimento, President, Chamber; Steven Martins, New Bedford City Councillor; Cindy Brehaut, Practice Manager, Capeway Veterinary Hospital; Melissa Costa, Rep. Quinn's office; Terri Nowell, Sen. Montigny's office; Jessica Pinho, Rep. Cabral's office.

From there, the group visited Roosevelt Middle School where they met interns, Kyle Duarte and Matthew Correia. Kyle and Matt have been working with Physical Education teachers Lisa

Thibeault and Jeremy Tilton in fitness exercises. Principal Darcy Fernandes praised the work of the high school interns, both of whom have gained admission to UMass Dartmouth, in large measure as a result of their internship experience. Both interns were graduates of the Roosevelt Middle School and were happy to be back working with the students.



From left to right: Rep. Stephen Canessa; Zelia LaGarde, BCC; Stephanie Barnes, Chamber Employer Specialist; Melissa Costa, Rep. Quinn's office; Matthew Correia, student intern; Steven Martins, New Bedford City Councillor; Jessica Pinho, Rep. Cabral's office; Peg Curro, BCC; Jean Fox, WIB; Kyle Duarte, student intern; Roy Nascimento, President, Chamber.

Metro North

On March 12th, the Metro North Region School-to-Career Connecting Activities team held two informational meetings for local legislators. Representative James Dwyer visited the Waterfield Business Center in Woburn. He met with Kate McDonough, President, and a current Woburn High School student, placed through the Connecting Activities program. A current employee at Waterfield who started as a Woburn High student also joined the meeting. Nancy Roberts and Barbara Maglio, The Career Place, One Stop Career Center staff explained how they assist youth to prepare for the workforce and how they work closely with employers supporting both the students and the supervisors while the students are employed. Chris Brennan, Interim Director of The Career Place also attended the meeting.

At the East Cambridge Savings Bank in Somerville, Representatives Denise Provost, Carl Sciortino, Jr. and Timothy Toomey met with a Somerville High Student, Peter Farkas, Career Source, One Stop Career Center and Arthur Spears, President and CEO and his staff from the bank. A current employee, previously placed through Connecting Activities also joined the meeting. The bank staff expressed their gratitude for the program that has placed numerous youth at the bank over the years. Two current bank employees are graduates of Connecting Activities.

Merrimack Valley

Fourteen very focused and career-minded students from the School-to-Career Connecting Activities Program at the International High School, on the Lawrence High School Campus had the opportunity to hear about the careers of Representative Barry R. Finegold and Lawrence Field Office Director for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, William Kelley. Both Representative Finegold and Director Kelley spoke about the importance of education, what employers expect from the employees they hire, and asked questions of the students about future career goals. Mr. Kelley shared what he and his staff learned from the students, Jimmy Castro and Keiry Melo, who visited the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office for Job Shadow Day in early February. Several students offered Representative Finegold business cards they had designed as part of the workshop series.

One student shared that during the School-to-Career Connecting Activities Program the knowledge she gained was “how to deal with others, even if the person didn’t agree at all times with me”. Another student shared: “the most helpful part of the program was learning to introduce yourself to others and to meet new people”.

Each of the students and many others will continue to work with Matt Qualter, ValleyWorks Career Center Youth Counselor, to explore careers, formulate a plan for career success, and seek part-time after school employment and/or summer jobs.



Rep. Finegold speaks to Lawrence International High School Students about public service.

North Central Massachusetts

On March 2nd Senator Jennifer Flanagan visited Simplex Grinnell in Westminster, MA. During her visit she toured the facility and spent time with several of the groups of students in the Women in Technology program.

(Some other regions not included in this document also hosted 2010 site visits)