



June 2006

A partnership among business, education, community and town government to assist students in Grades K-12 with an awareness of the world of work through career exploration activities.

Business/Education Comments

By John Annick, Co-Chair

The years have quickly passed and it's hard to believe that we are completing our eleventh year. To all our business partners and the more than 350+ people who have contributed their time and financial resources to make so many career exploration experiences a reality, we extend our thanks.

A few highlights of 2005-06:

- surpassed last year's record to award \$13,567 to 17 minigrant recipients
- presented Discovery Museum to highlight career awareness, CT United for Research Excellence to learn about CT biotech, and Home-Town US that explored a new technique to hire qualified applicants
- 2nd place finish of the Fed Challenge team in the Fed Reserve contest
- growth of programs on Channel 17
- annual trip to see Dr. Robert Langer, the world-renowned biotechnologist at MIT
- support of THS SOS (Student Office Services)
- Clearinghouse program to attract Trumbull students back to Connecticut

We will close our year on June 7 with the Recognition Breakfast Event at the newly renovated Tashua Knolls Restaurant. The business support from HealthNet, Akzo Chemical, Spring Meadow of Trumbull and Trumbull's Own Chamber of Commerce for this year-end event is greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL AWARDS RECOGNITION:

• Business Person of the Year - to Christine Kennedy of Unilever and Valerie Reyher of Kennedy Center. Both have been major supporters in the growth of BEI. Chris has promoted greater involvement of Unilever in our activities and assisted in the development of environmental programs at Trumbull High School and with the Town's new Nature Commission. Val is the President of the BEI Foundation, a member of the Recognition Committee, and the minigrant application chair.

• Ray Avery award to Joan Trefz, for her support and participation in many volunteer organizations both in and outside Trumbull

• Making-A-Difference Awards

- James Morrison of Trumbull Library for his assistance at the library
- Alice McCloghery of Westfield Mall for her overall support
- Marilyn Greenberg of Monroe Business Associates and TCC President for her leadership and success of the Pumpkin Classic
- Hillcrest principal, Rosemary Seaman and Madison principal, Valerie Forshaw for their leadership of the Middle School Career Night program
- John Wrobel of Trumbull High School for his leadership and success of the S.O.S. program

• Additional thanks to the First Selectman's Cable Advisory Committee who have contributed to the success of Channel 17.

A major thank you to all our financial contributors: Akzo Nobel Functional Chemicals, Greg and Nancy Annick and family, Aquarion Water Company of CT, Arbitrational International Consulting LLC, Birarelli Insurance, Executive Office Services, HealthNet of Northeast, Inc., Metrusky Wealth Management, Newtown Savings Bank, People's Bank, Valerie Reyher, Southern CT Gas Company, Mary Spiegel, Spring Meadow of Trumbull, Trumbull Chamber of Commerce, Trumbull's Own Chamber of Commerce, Trumbull Rotary Club, Unilever United States Foundation, and Westfield Trumbull.

In the new year, we look forward to changes in meeting schedules, the introduction of new programs and a greater integration with other Trumbull organizations. We will strive to enhance our programs. JOIN US and be a part of a special effort in "Making a Difference" to a Trumbull student's future career. ■

THS Celebrates School to Career 2005-2006

By JoAnn O'Connell

This has been a banner year at Trumbull High School with many successful career related initiatives. The school year was kicked off with the annual Career

Exploration and Community Service Fair in September attended by more than 500 students. Participants came from 28 local business and service organizations. The Technology and Health Expo titled LUNCH & LEARN held in January affords the entire high school population the opportunity to explore careers and post high school options. Thirty students from grades 9 - 12 participated in the Architecture, Construction and Engineering ACE Mentor Program. Sixty participants attended our GEAR UP PROGRAM sponsored by BEI. The mission of the GEAR UP PROGRAM is to engage every senior without definite post high school plans to become aware of their options and to put into place a PLAN OF ACTION. The Business and Educator's Conference was an incredible success. Collaboration, problem solving and presentation among business partners, students and educators was representative of the enthusiasm and commitment that exists among these three groups. The Fed Challenge, Bi-Centennial, Model UN, extensive Job Shadowing, Math Team, Robotics and Biotechnology initiatives, attendance at major conferences by students such as the Manufacturing Careers Expo in Hartford are samplings of what is happening at THS. Eighty-Four juniors and seniors will receive Trumbull Service/Learning & Career Certificates. These students have demonstrated a commitment to Community Service and Career Exploration. ■

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Enhancing Our Future ... Creative Imagination

On April 28, over eighty business partners, educators, parents, students, and town government officials met at the Trumbull Marriott to reflect upon and inquire about the skills our children will need and what the professional community can provide to prepare students to compete internationally for a successful career. The conference theme was based on the book, "The World Is Flat," by Tom Friedman.

Panel members Paul Timpanelli of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council; Bruce Lippman, House Principal, Trumbull High School; Colin Neenan, Media Specialist, Trumbull High School; Kate Hampford-Donahue, parent; and Casey Gardiner, high school (junior) student shared their views on the book. They also provided insightful thoughts on how the community needs to collaborate to better prepare our students.

The Business Partners/Educators Conference was sponsored by the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce and BEI. ■

Trumbull Public School Students K-12 Benefit from BEI Mini Grants

This year Trumbull Public Schools received \$13,567 in mini grants from BEI.

Art in the Greater Community

At Jane Ryan, students were exposed to career possibilities within the field of art in the greater community. This was accomplished through the purchase of posters, videos, and books (all relating to careers in art or artists) and visiting artists from Western Connecticut State and Sacred Heart Universities. (Linda Bryk)

Early Start Career Series

The Early Start Career Series was embedded into the curriculum at Frenchtown to enhance the exploration of careers, and to utilize this Series for character education, computer science, reading comprehension, and writing practice. Grade four students used Mission: Careers software to research 12 different career "families." In addition to navigating within the program, students used the associated workbooks for follow-up lessons. (Ellen Abro)

Tashua Student Newspaper

The students at Tashua must really love to write. When given the opportunity to be a part of the newspaper staff, more than 60 students in grades 2 through 5 signed up. Students met with the staff advisor at their first meeting to decide the jobs needed to

produce a newspaper. Next, they brainstormed ideas for articles and features. Finally, students broke up into groups by grade level or interest to begin the research, writing and editing of their story. The published paper will be ready for every student in time for summer vacation. Then, it will be time to begin planning for the fall edition. (Barbara Kinn)

Career Corner

Counselors at Madison Middle School purchased career related supplies which encourage the growth and development of personal management, goal setting, and employability skills for students. The Career Corner contains career books written for 11 to 13 year olds, DVD's and workbooks for teachers. (Lena Onyshkewych)

School Store

The School Store at Madison Middle School was initiated to incorporate "real life" applicable math skills into two special education classrooms. The Math Instructional Chair and two Special Education teachers collaborated on the types of skills and responsibilities the students would learn. These skills included pricing, computation of profit and loss, the meaning and use of credits and debits, percentage of price mark-up, and recordkeeping. (Gina Zuk)

AP Lab Visit

The Trumbull High School AP Biology classes traveled to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, to participate in a DNA restriction analysis lab required by the Educational Testing Service as part of the Advanced Placement Biology Curriculum. In an extensive hands-on laboratory experience, students used restriction enzymes, the scissors of molecular biologists, to cut DNA from the bacteriophage lambda. The resulting DNA fragments were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. Photographs of the students' results are posted on the DNALC Internet site. At the laboratory, students were also treated to the viewing of a DNA video, and a tour of the labs (Sonali Singh)

Career Education for Students with Special Needs

Approximately thirty-eight students at Trumbull High School currently identified with diverse learning needs, either through special education or through section 504 of the American with Disabilities Act, actively participated in a variety of career awareness activities in order to assist them in planning for future business connections based on their individual needs. Their explorations lead

them in the direction of planning for their future career. For some students this means graduating and going to college, for others it means entering the business world, and for others it means working part-time while pursuing a college education. (Carolyn Butler)

Magazine/Year book

The students at Trumbull Alternate School published a literary arts magazine/yearbook. During the school year, all of the students worked on short stories that they submitted for the end of year publication. Student motivation has increased because the students know that it is likely that their stories will be published and therefore read by an audience of their peers. (Joanne Connon)

Ceramic Planters

In collaboration with the Agriscience/Biotechnology Center, students in ceramics classes at Trumbull High School have created planters that will be sold at the May Agricultural Expo which is held at the Center. (Trevor Youngberg, Chris Allen)

Courts in Session

The project, "Courts in Session," is a restoration project. The Madison Middle School courtyard has gone astray and the trees and bushes have grown out of control. Students at REACH designed specific aspects of the project to solve this problem. The program focused on the trades of landscaping and carpentry, and with professional guidance, the students created flowerbeds, picnic areas, and a pergola. (Eugene Brochu)

World Languages Celebration

The World Language Department of Trumbull High School held its annual World Language Week Celebration April 3 - 7 this spring. There were speakers representing various aspects of language study. Business partners were guest speakers in foreign language classes, presenting information on opportunities in the workplace with language acquisition as an advantage. (Nicandra Perusi)

Our business partners through BEI continue to make a difference in our schools by providing mini grants, career awareness activities, guest speakers, job shadowing opportunities for students, and externships for teachers. BEI mini grants also support our annual Gear Up Conference to help make smooth transitions to career opportunities or higher education and the THS Fed Challenge Team.

The teachers and administrators are extremely appreciative of the volunteer time, effort, and support BEI provides to enhance career awareness for our students. ■