

Education

Marketing to their peers

Students learn what it takes to organize job fair

By Taylour Nelson

Staff Writer

As Andrew Parker sat in his Business Internship class at Legacy High School Friday afternoon, he wondered what was taking so long.

"The whole process is taking longer than I thought it would," Parker said. "I felt this sense of urgency when we started talking about it, but it takes so long to communicate with everyone."

And thus begins one of the lessons in client-business relationships and the students' newest project.

Parker, a senior, and seven other 11th- and 12th-graders in his business internship class were recruited by the Adams County Workforce & Business Center, with help from the Adams County Education Consortium to help plan, market and promote their annual youth job fair in March.

But the lesson Parker and his fellow students have learned in the process of coordinating efforts between school districts, businesses and the WBC is that networking takes some time, and patience.

"It's really about working on a project with all these businesses and the patience you have to have with communication," said Charlene Campbell, the Business Internship director at Legacy. "They're doing it on their own. I'm just reinforcing professional business behavior with communication."

The students are basically marketing a job fair to themselves — giving the WBC insight as to what their peers might want to see at such an event.

First thing on their list? Change the name of the job fair.

It was originally titled Youth Summer Job Fair, but the Business Internship class students all agreed that the name didn't match the people they were trying to market.

It has since been changed to the Teen and Young Adult Job Fair.

Students were given the task of contacting all the high schools and businesses in Adams County that might want to participate.

Their goal is to get at least 40 businesses to set up booths at the job fair. So far 24 have agreed, six maybes.

Among those businesses are Waterworld, Sam's Club, the cities of Westminster, Commerce City and Broomfield, Wells Fargo, Chili's and Avon.

The Adams County Education Consortium is a liaison between schools and businesses in the area, connecting students to careers in Adams County and allowing businesses to reach out to students.

Education Consortium Director Sandy Steiner said giving students the opportunity to participate in the marketing and recruitment aspect might bring more businesses to the job fair.

"I think there's something really compelling about a high school student calling these businesses and asking them to be there on behalf of their peers," Steiner said.

The fair is open to students who will be entering the ninth grade in the fall, all the way up to graduating seniors.

The fair will be at the Adams County Fairgrounds Friday, March 9. The space was rented during the day so the business internship students had to think about coordinating field trips for the other high school students.

According to Parker, some summer jobs in Adams County are easy

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— **Sandy Steiner**,
Director of the Adams County
Education Consortium

to come by but for those who want more choices than flipping burgers, or jobs that can expand into the school year, he hopes this fair will be a good starting point.

"They can apply right on the spot for a job there, so I hope this'll help them," he said.

In April the Future Business Leaders of America, an organization that encourages business careers at the middle and high school levels, will host the annual state competition in Vail. A team of students from Legacy plan to take their experience with the Workforce & Business Center and enter it into a competition called Partnership with a Business — a category that fits perfectly with their experience, according to Steiner.

"It's an excellent example of a partnership between students and businesses and is really a win-win for all the groups involved," Steiner said.

For businesses or students who are interested in participating in the job fair March 9, contact Charlene Campbell at charlene.campbell@adams12.org.

Horizon hosts town meeting

By Taylour Nelson

Staff Writer

In any practical situation, knowing how to solve a complex calculus equation will not be helpful; so why do students have to take classes such as calculus if they aren't interested in it?

Local education officials answered that question and many more Tuesday night at Horizon High School's annual town meeting.

Horizon's student government hosted a panel of Horizon High School administrators and a counselor as well as two Adams 12 Five Star Schools' School Board members, Superintendent Mike Paskewicz and Rep. Judy Solano, D-Thornton House District 31.

Sometimes when students ask questions, teachers don't have all the answers, said Jordan Ainsworth, 17, a student at Horizon and a member of the student government.

But with this diverse panel, "someone is going to be able to answer our questions," she said.

The panel sat on the stage in Horizon's auditorium fielding questions from students, teachers and parents.

Students asked questions about graduation requirements and why they needed to take certain classes, especially the ones they weren't necessarily interested in.

District 12's School Board member Fred Schaefer said he thought he would never use calculus ever again but the problem solving techniques have been useful in every job he has held. It was also explained that the curriculum was designed to produce well-rounded students.

Questions about recycling, math requirements and CSAP tests were discussed as well as the meaning of an advisory period and the prevalence of substance abuse among teenagers.

Horizon's student government members issued an 18-question survey to the student body in November addressing topics that affect the students. The results of the

survey, which had been published in the school newspaper, were presented to the panel.

One of the questions in the survey was whether the students felt they were receiving an education that will help them move toward a successful future. Of the 1,038 students who responded, 399 strongly agreed and 415 agreed. Thirty-seven students strongly disagreed.

After students posed their questions, the panel had a few questions for them.

Were their complaints addressed in a timely manner? Are students being properly disciplined?

Some students agreed their issues were addressed immediately, others said their complaints were never dealt with.

When Solano asked if drugs were considered a major problem among teenagers in the area, 11th-grader Ainsworth said she thought it was "overwhelming" how many of her peers experiment with drugs and alcohol, something she hadn't expected at her age.

"I think it's a huge problem," Ainsworth said. "I see it everywhere. There are at least 60 people off the top of my head that have drug and alcohol problems."

When asked if she thought CSAP tests were helpful for her future, 11th-grader Jessica Romero said she just recently realized that the tests could help students down the road.

"It's preparing you to take tests that are important, like the SATs or the ACTs," she said. "I think it does affect your future even if it doesn't affect you today."

However, Ainsworth said she just sees CSAP tests as restricting her peers and her teachers, taking away instruction time to prepare for the test.

"I look at it as 'this is a requirement' because they tell us we have to do it," she said.

Because there were less than 30 students who were at the town meeting, the student government plans to publish a spread in the school newspaper about the discussion.

Classes

WRITE YOUR OWN MEMOIR 6-8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, March 8, 15
Thornton Senior Center
9471 Dorothy Blvd.
Thornton

Come find the excitement in discovering your life stories in unexpected places and write your own engaging memoir now. Take the journey to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, to learn the lessons your life has taught you,

and to create your own story experiences. You can do it. Instructor: Lissa Ann Forbes, Author/Publisher, founder of The Elemental Press. Fee is \$56 resident, \$59 nonresident. Please call 720-977-5853 for more information or to register.

COUPLES BALLROOM DANCE 7-8 p.m.

Tuesdays, March 6-April 10
Carpenter Recreation Center
11151 N. Colorado Blvd.
Thornton

Come and learn the graceful waltz, the smooth foxtrot, the rumba, and the lively swing. Learn the basics such as how to lead and follow, correct posture and technique, and a few steps for each dance. Instructor: Christian Thierens. Fee \$75 resident, \$78 nonresident. Please call 720-977-5853 for more information or to register.

Have a school story tip for
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