

NAF ROCHESTER

College and career preparation that gives students the skills they need for their next step.

SPRING 2013

Students at NAF Rochester's annual Internship Conference participate in practice interviews.

Patrick Pendell of Harris Corporation was one of the interviewers.



Annual conference at RIT prepares students for summer work experiences

On March 19, an excellent group of juniors from NAF programs at East High and STEM High gathered at the Rochester Institute of Technology in preparation for their summer internships and how to succeed personally and professionally.

Students were treated to a light breakfast, courtesy of Wegmans, and listened intently to a panel of speakers. Judge John C. Ninfo II discussed avoiding debt and how to build for a successful financial future. Katie Scott from ESL Federal Credit Union made a presentation on resume building and filling out applications, Brian Jones of Bryant & Stratton College had a conversation with students about the dos and don'ts of social media, and Gail Berkes from the Volunteers of America Working Wardrobe talked about what to wear to a job interview.

Students then participated in practice interviews with volunteers from a wide range of local businesses and

organizations including Marty Jacobsen from Advantage Federal Credit Union, Katie Scott, Kris Prince, and Cortez Jones of ESL, John Halleran of Halleran Financial, Pat Pendell of Harris Corporation, Marianne Piccone of Pinnacle Investments LLC, Cati Pulver of Junior Achievement Rochester, and Leslie Harvey of the Housing Council.

During lunch, which was provided by the Rochester Red Wings, students had an opportunity to speak to several alumni of the program and to further connect with employers such as ESL.

Students stated that the event was very helpful and that they were very excited to start their summer work experience! NAF Rochester would like to thank RIT, Wegmans, the Rochester Red Wings, and all volunteers for their generous support!

Rochester Red Wings and NAF Rochester: A Great Partnership Continues

This summer, six students from East High School will be completing internships at the Rochester Red Wings. Jeff DeSantis, Concessions Manager, interviewed students for Food Cart positions. Interns in this position function somewhat autonomously and are responsible for ordering new supplies, balancing their register, and running the day-to-day operations of the concession stand almost as if it were their own business.

DeSantis stated that during the student interviews, many of the students talked about taking a course focused on delivering excellent customer service and how they believed the class made them a good addition to the Red Wing's concessions staff.

NAF Rochester would like to thank DeSantis and the entire Red Wings organization for their support and dedication!



Major Corporations Offer Exciting Summer Job Possibilities for STEM Students

This summer will be the first summer that STEM High School students will be participating in summer NAF internships. Among the new internship providers will be the Information Technology and Human Resources Departments at Wegmans, Harris Corporation, and Johnson & Johnson Ortho Clinical Diagnostics. NAF Rochester is also excited about continuing opportunities from M/E Engineering and Xerox.

Website Highlights Job Openings

This year, NAF Rochester has simplified the way that students can view the available job postings. Students can go to www.NAFRochester.org to download the student application packet and view job descriptions.

The job descriptions are created through Salesforce and then uploaded to www.NAFRochester.org. According to Christy Houde, the volunteer driving the Salesforce initiative, stated that the process will be improved even further next year.

These improvements fit well into NAF Rochester's goal to simplify the application process and improve efficiency.

East and Charlotte Combine Advisory Boards

The wheel was invented around 7,000 years ago and people have been reinventing it ever since but not the East and Charlotte Advisory Boards. Instead, East and Charlotte are teaming up to put a focus on their shared interests.

East and Charlotte both have Academies of Finance and Hospitality & Tourism. Additionally, East also has an Academy of Information Technology.

The first joint meeting of the new Charlotte/East Advisory Board was held on April 18th. Board Chairperson Kimm Proctor is excited about the new opportunities that the collaboration will provide.

Many Students Already Working

STEM High has 26 students already placed in jobs. Of the 26 students, 18 are enrolled in a co-op program through Wegmans or Rochester General. East High has seven students currently employed.



Charlotte Students Take Part in Junior Achievement Titan Competition

Students from Charlotte High School recently had the opportunity to take part in a regional Junior Achievement Titan competition after performing well in a qualifying round.

Titan is a business simulation program in which students act as the CEOs of fictional companies. Cati Pulver of Junior Achievement stated that although the students did not win the competition, they still had a great time and got to know several business leaders at a luncheon event.

Additionally, all of the students are eligible to take part next year so the competition was a great learning opportunity.

NAF Rochester and Junior Achievement Team Up for Financial Literacy

NAF Rochester is very excited to announce a partnership with Junior Achievement Rochester. Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. Currently, Junior Achievement is already active at all three schools in the Rochester City School District with NAF academies.

One of Junior Achievement's many programs focusing on financial literacy is the online life simulation program *Finance Park*. In this program, students are given an identity complete with job and a family and must create a budget while managing wants and needs. Along with the online portion of *Finance Park*, an in-class curriculum helps prepare students in financial literacy.

Junior Achievement uses volunteer experts from the business community to teach sections of the curriculum that match their expertise. Members of the East High Advisory Board recently participated in a training to become *Finance Park* volunteers for NAF classes.

Volunteers were happy to see that Junior Achievement's mission of financial literacy fit so well with the NAF program and in many cases exactly modeled units in the NAF curriculum.

In addition to Advisory Board members involvement in the *Finance Park* program, Junior Achievement's Cati Pulver joined the East High Advisory Board. Both Junior Achievement and NAF Rochester look forward to the many ways they can partner in the future.

Annual Iron Chef Competition Excites More Than Just Tastebuds

Around 300 spectators watched six students from East High School compete in the 4th annual Iron Chef competition. This year's event was hosted by Wegmans at the Wegmans Conference Center in Chili. Each contestant was supported by a celebrity sous chef. This group of celebrities was headlined by Daisy Martinez, host of *Viva Daisy!* on the Food Network and *Daisy Cooks!* on PBS and cookbook author. Other sous chefs included Monroe Community College President Anne Kress, Rochester Red Wings CEO Naomi Silver, radio host Michael Thomas Warren, and East High/Charlotte Advisory Board Chairperson Kimm Proctor of ESL Federal Credit Union.

This year's winner was Tajhnae Crouser (pictured), a junior from the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism. Crouser was awarded a scholarship of \$500 to the college of her choice. Crouser was assisted by Proctor, an alumni of East High. This summer, Crouser will be completing an internship for the Rochester Red Wings.

According to East High NAF Coordinator Jim Spawton, students from all three academies played a part in making the event a success. Spawton stated that students from the Academy of Finance helped put together the budget, students from the Academy of Information Technology helped with the event's audio/visuals, and the students who weren't participating as chefs from the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism assisted the Wegmans staff as waitstaff.

The Iron Chef competition organized as a cooperative effort between the East High School culinary arts program and Latinas Unidas. Part of the proceeds benefited East's culinary arts program.



Volunteers From Old Navy Conduct Mock Interviews

Joan Bini, Store Manager from the *Old Navy* at Eastview Mall approached the Rochester Education Foundation and asked if there was anything she and other local *Old Navy* store managers could do to help with career readiness in the school district. After coordinating with the STEM High Advisory Board, REF/NAF Program Assistant Stuart Hencke and STEM High Co-op coordinator Cindy Christian excitedly invited Bini and her colleagues to conduct mock interviews with selected STEM students.

On April 24th, Bini and four of her fellow *Old Navy* managers, interviewed seventeen STEM juniors and provided feedback on the students' resumes. The interviewers were: Becky Caudle, Assistant Store Manager at Eastview Mall, Sean Casher, Store Manager at Greece Ridge Mall, Leigh Ann Callan, Services and Training Manager at Greece Ridge Mall, and Karen DiPonzio, General Manager at Town Center at Webster.

For many of the students participating, this was the first or second time they had gone through an interview. While some of the students reported that they were nervous, others expressed that having gone through practice interviews at the Internship Conference gave them a lot more confidence. Students reported that they enjoyed having the opportunity to go through a practice interview ahead of their upcoming official internship interviews.

Bini, Caudle, and DiPonzio remarked that they were very impressed with the quality of the students' from their dress to their interviewing skills.

Casher, who specializes in human resources, stated that he enjoyed helping the students with their resumes and stressed the importance of using "buzz words" with them. Casher stated that he would enjoy an opportunity to talk to students about their resumes in greater detail next year.

The volunteers expressed that they enjoyed the experience and were interested in how they could continue to be active in the program in the future. Among their suggestions were to do workshops and even take students through a "life in the day" of an *Old Navy* employee to give students an indication of what a real world life experience is like.

NAF Rochester is very grateful to *Old Navy* for supporting career readiness outreach and the time of the volunteers who came to STEM High. NAF Rochester looks forward to working together with *Old Navy* on projects in the future!

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Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Getting Involved in the Community?

NAF is always looking for new volunteers. Involvement in NAF means helping to provide students with the tools they need to succeed. NAF Rochester is always looking for new partners to host interns, but getting involved in NAF can also mean talking to a class, supporting an intern or activity, joining a board, being a mock interviewer, or providing a job shadowing experience. We are happy to work with potential partners to find a satisfying volunteer experience! Contact NAF Program Assistant Stuart Hencke for more information!