

Career Day Colligation!

West Valley Middle School hosted its first-ever Career Day on Friday to fascinated students and teachers alike. Presenters came from a varied array of professions and backgrounds and gave the students an important glimpse into the working world:

- Mike Chisolm told of the path he took from Laramie, Wyoming to San Jose to become a Sports Announcer. Mr. Chisolm told the students that it's not enough just to like to talk, you have to know sports and start following them *now*. You need to study hard in college and learn journalism as well as good public speaking. And he told the students how important it is to read to build your vocabulary and language skills so that they can be articulate.
- Aundrea Lacy's path took her from Hewlett-Packard to owning her own brownie-baking business. Ms. Lacy told the students how struggles in school taught her perseverance and determination and ultimately gave her what she needed to earn an MBA and become a successful business owner. It was the very fact that she suffers from dyslexia that caused her to invert a number in a brownie recipe that made it her own and made the best brownies anyone had ever tasted. Since creating her brownies, Aundrea has been in People Magazine and appeared on the Rachel Ray show. Ms. Lacey urged the students not to fear mistakes— after all, it was a mistake that led to her success.
- The myriad uses of Nanotechnology were relayed to the students by Mr. Scott Jordan, who has several patents in the field. In spite of being hearing impaired from childhood and losing his hearing altogether at age 27, Mr. Jordan's can-do attitude carried him through a Masters in Physics and MBA. He encouraged the students never to

say, "I can't" and told them he challenges himself to do something "impossible" every year. It could be something like bringing technology and knowledge together from different fields to create a new patentable innovation or bringing two colleagues together who never got along. Mr. Jordan's PowerPoint presentation introduced the students to an array of applications of nanotechnology and nanopositioning from bio-medical to semiconductor to photonics and more. If it's microscopic and needs to be moved or adjusted or aligned, nano-positioning is there!

- Parent Lauren Gavin has a heart for the children of our world and spoke to the students about her career as a Social Worker who specializes in counseling children. Before her current job she worked with children in Juvenile Hall. Mrs. Gavin encouraged the students to think about the non-monetary "pay-check" that comes from working in professions in which you help make other peoples' lives better. A valuable lesson for our young materialists!
- Students all sat up a little straighter when our law enforcement officers took the mike to present! The first, David Silva, works as an undercover officer for the DMV. He brought his unmarked car, a bullet-proof vest, pepper spray, and other accessories for the students to see. Students swarmed his car with keen interest during the breakout question and answer sessions.
- When John Nores, Jr. took his turn, students learned of the many different problems a Fish and Game warden faces every day. Mr. Nores presented a very informative DVD and brought his truck, a bullet proof vest, posters and other paraphernalia to show the students.
- The house was rocked by parent Brian Link who works for Dolby. The students learned about surround sound, Dolby innovations, the many different products in which Dolby sound is used, and got to listen to cool special effects in surround sound.

Mrs. Jordan was thrilled by the feedback presenters gave her as to the high quality, thoughtful and creative questions students asked presenters. All in all it was a most successful event! Many thanks to

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the presenters for giving up their time to come to
West Valley Middle School to give students this

outstanding experience.
