

From the community:

Shelter Club's Business Pros Make Allendale's Career Day Special



Lisa Zenni, of the Shelter Club, conducts a mock interview with an Allendale student. (Posted by JOANNE LEVINE, Community Contributor)

By Community Contributor JOANNE LEVINE

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Allendale Association, in conjunction with the Shelter Club, recently held a Career/Job Readiness Day for high school students on its Lake Villa Campus. The highlight of the event was

presentations from local business professionals, also Shelter Club members, who shared advice as well as personal job experiences.

Juniors and seniors listened avidly to the words of Lynn Bromstedt, a strategy consultant and former divisional vice president at Abbott Labs, and attorney Jodie Nedeau, General Counsel at Farragut Investments, Inc. Nedeau is president of the Shelter Club, a nonprofit volunteer organization based in Lake Forest that has supported Allendale for over 100 years and is its largest private donor.

In addition to discussing careers in their industries, Nedeau and Bromstedt pooled tips on job hunting, interviewing, and succeeding in the workplace. Both encouraged students to identify a career goal, develop a plan for attaining it, and build on their existing talents and interests.

They urged students to work hard and never hesitate to ask for help.

The students later broke into smaller groups and polished their interviewing skills by conducting role play interviews with Shelter Club members. The interviewers helped students identify their strengths and translate them into terms employers use, such as 'prompt' and 'detail oriented.'

"Choosing a career and landing that first job isn't easy for anyone," noted Allendale president Mary Shabazian. "But it's especially daunting for a young adult who is overcoming a highly challenging childhood. Our goal is to help students think positively about their job prospects and get excited about what the future holds."

In addition to its on-campus school, which serves more than 200 students each year, Allendale offers an extensive vocational program, which includes an on-site laundry, greenhouse, auto shop, wood shop, and embroidery/silk-screening/imaging classes. Allendale offers job coaching services to all students and encourages them to get hands-on experience via part-time jobs on or off campus.

Many of the students attending the event agreed that, while job interviews made them a little nervous, getting a good job in their chosen field will make it all worthwhile.

Founded in 1897, the Allendale Association is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to excellence and innovation in care, treatment, education and advocacy for troubled youth and their families. Today's continuum of care includes Residential and Day Treatment services that include Specialized Education and Counseling Services, Outpatient counseling and foster care. Programs and services reach children with a broad range of moderate to profound emotional, behavioral, and learning difficulties and challenges with a continuum of care. Currently, the Allendale Association serves over 1,400 children, adolescents, young adults and families in need annually. For more information about the Allendale Association, please visit www.allendale4kids.org or call 847-356-2351.

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