



wwa@weldre4.k12.co.us 970-686-8078

MISSION STATEMENT

Windsor Works Alliance (WWA) advances local efforts to improve the quality of career education by building a bridge from school to work.

Spring 2011
Volume 1, Issue 2

Also in this Issue:

CareerReady Colorado Certification	2
What is WWA?	2
Business Partner Profile- Something with Pizzaz	3
Reasons to Become a WWA partner	4

Watch for the date of our Annual Luncheon which will take place early Fall

WWA Business Partners Conduct Mock Interviews for Windsor High School Students

Sweaty palms, trembling stomachs and shaky voices. These phrases accurately describe the Windsor High School students who participated in mock interviews conducted by WWA Business Partners. These business leaders volunteered their time to give students a taste of what it really feels like to experience a job interview.

Students had an assigned interview time and had to walk in to Weld RE-4's District Office, interact with the Administrative Assistant and wait to be called to the interview room. "The goal was to make this mock interview as close to the true experience as possible," reflected Kristin Ervin, Windsor High School teacher. According to Ervin, the students were given a general overview of interviews that included tips on how to have a successful interview and sample interview questions. *See "Interviews" pg 3*



Pictured above: Clay Drake, Signature Bank; David Rogers, WHS Senior; Jon Paul Burden, Weld RE-4 Administrator; Susan Jewell-Klemma, Something with Pizzaz; Martin Lind, Water Valley; Erich Ehrlich, Renaissance Insurance; Kristin Ervin, WHS Teacher.

WWA Youth Earn CareerReady Colorado Certification

To date, 18 WWA students have earned CareerReady Colorado Certification (CRCC). In the Fall the ACT Standardized test that measures workplace skills was administered at our high school. The 3 part exam tests competency levels of the most common job skills required for success in today's workplace. In order to earn a certificate, which is signed by the Governor, a job seeker must attain certain score on all 3 parts of the exam. Having a certificate means that particular job seeker has a certain level of job skill proficiency.

Certification at a Bronze level indicates the holder has the skills for approximately 35% of jobs, a Silver for 65% and a Gold for 90% of jobs. The highest level certification is Platinum, which indicates the holder has the skills for 99% of jobs in the US.

WWA seeks innovative ways to prepare youth for the workforce. Providing a venue to earn CRCC is a fine example of our efforts because this certification is a unique way for young job seekers to stand out among applicants. This certification has relevance far beyond the walls of Windsor High School. The fact that



each time the test is administered, additional youth earn certification and many improve certification levels is a strong indication that our youth are seeing the importance and relevance of the certification.

Colorado is one of at least 35 states participating in the national Career Readiness Certificate program. For additional information, visit eswc.org or contact Chris Arnaud of Employment Services of Weld County at 970-353-3800 x6726.

What is Windsor Works Alliance (WWA)?

WWA was created to support Weld RE-4 career education initiatives. WWA builds partnerships with local businesses to better prepare youth for the world of work. Our Business Partners are willing to be a guest speaker in a class, lead a tour of a work site and/or provide paid or unpaid work experiences to help youth get hands on experience at an actual work setting. Teachers can create mock work settings in the classroom, but there is nothing more valuable than giving a young adult experience in the "real world."

If the afore mentioned activities are not appealing, a business can support WWA behind the scenes in many ways, including serving on an Advisory Board that sets annual goals or writing an article for the quarterly newsletter. Businesses are encouraged to suggest and help implement any of the endless possibilities that will contribute to our success. If you'd like to be a part of WWA, please contact us at 970-686-8078 or wwa@weldre4.k12.co.us

WWA Partner Profile



SOMETHING WITH
PIZZAZ

WWA would like to extend a grand thank you to Business Partner Susan Jewell-Klema of Something with Pizzaz. Something with Pizzaz has helped WWA improve marketing efforts by revising our brochure and coaching the WWA Team about business culture, which differs greatly from the culture in education. Susan generously offers her time and expertise, often on a tight timeline. Susan says, "Being a Partner with WWA has been a great experience. I feel good

Susan Jewell-Klema greets a WWA student during a recent Mock Interview.



about supporting the community and helping to improve the working skills of our local youth. As a small business owner in Windsor I understand how important it is for us to support our local resources. As a community we all become stronger when we help our work force become stronger."

"Interviews" Con't from page 1 Prior to the mock interviews, Business Partners were given a list of interview questions from which to choose and an evaluation form to be used for each interview. The evaluation form and feedback provided by Business Partners was invaluable since it came directly from local business leaders. Included in the tips given to the students were suggestions on improving dress and body language.

"I learned a lot from this interview," said student David Rogers. With a smile on his face, student George Ferris added, "So did I." Both Rogers and Ferris agreed this experience has made them better prepared for a real interview.

WWA plans to do mock interviews again in May. Please contact us via email if you're interested in being an interviewer. wwa@weldre4.k12.co.us



Clay Drake interviews student Jenna Barnhart in Weld RE-4 Board Room.



Senior Reed Hall anxiously waits to be called back for his interview.



Reasons You Should Become a WWA Partner

The number one reason a business should be a WWA Partner is this- It affects your bottom line. Employers are more successful with hard-working, reliable staff.

Quality staff typically don't just land on your doorstep. This is particularly true of young and entry-level workers, who may need to develop a strong work ethic and productive workplace behaviors. WWA and our Business Partners will help mold a more effective workforce for Windsor businesses.

Some Partners may also be eligible for additional benefits such as:

- Job Coaching from WWA staff to help train one of our youth working in a paid or unpaid work experience at your place of business.
- Ongoing Support from WWA for activities such as planning a work site tour, preparing to be a guest in the classroom or implementing a successful paid or unpaid work experience.
- Tax credits or employer stipends for hiring our youth in regular, paid positions.

All of these benefits come at **NO COST** to the Business Partner.

Why wait? Becoming a WWA Partner is ridiculously simple and non-invasive for businesses. Return your WWA Profile card today by mail to 900 Main Street, D-1, Windsor, CO 80550 or via email to: wwa@weldre4.k12.co.us

WWA PROFILE CARD
Business: <hr/>
Contact: <hr/>
Phone: <hr/>
Email: <hr/>
I would be willing to:
<input type="checkbox"/> Sit on the WWA Advisory Board <input type="checkbox"/> Provide guided tours of my company/business <input type="checkbox"/> Provide unpaid work experience for a student <input type="checkbox"/> Provide job shadowing opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Provide paid employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Post job openings on job board <input type="checkbox"/> Be a guest speaker in a class or for an event <input type="checkbox"/> Provide on-the-job training, internship <input type="checkbox"/> Receive quarterly newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

COMING SOON: Summer Newsletter, July
Annual Luncheon, Early Fall