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BELOIT MEMORIAL STUDENTS HAVE AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES IN MOCK INTERVIEWS

Posted by Jennifer Thompson on 12/1/2017

Beloit Memorial junior Gloria Heiss (*pictured below*) sat confidently in the Beloit Memorial library writing a thank you card immediately following her mock interview on Nov. 28. Heiss was one of 182 juniors who participated in mock interviews this week at the high school. The interviews were the culmination of weeks of work where students created a resume, cover letter and job application. The mock interview was the final step in this career readiness project.



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Beloit Memorial Students Have Authentic Experiences in Mock Interviews

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The Mock Interview program began over a decade ago as a part of the 11th grade English curriculum. The program is coordinated with the Business Education Partnership, a part of the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corp. Students not only receive grades for learning life skills but also receive valuable feedback from potential employers.

Heiss, who interviewed for a hotel clerk position, was appreciative of the immediate feedback and was not surprised when advised to be more concise in her replies. She smiled widely and said, “I like to talk and the interview was very laid back, so it was easy to be long-winded.”

Another student Fernando Badillo (*pictured below*) was also grateful for the immediate feedback and had great advice for future students. “Don’t pressure yourself to be where other students are; focus on putting your own strengths out there,” advised Badillo confidently.



Resumes and applications are important to prospective employers, but students learned that what makes the difference between the job offer or

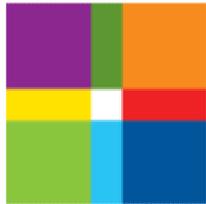
rejection is often soft skills. Those are skills that students worked to develop during this process – handshakes, eye contact, proper interview apparel, body language, smile, and the ability to clearly and concisely communicate.

The program would not have been possible without the support from community and business leaders who donated over 215 hours of service to our students. Students received expert advice from guest facilitators who came alongside the students in this process. Many students positively commented about the impact volunteers had on the students. Teacher, Amanda Sellen said, “Community members and participation are vital to this program. They volunteer their time to mentor our students throughout this process. Their experience and enthusiasm help students be successful not only in the mock interviews but also future interviews.”

If you are interested in volunteering for future mock interviews, please contact Mitchell Briesemeister, Director of Career and Technical Education, at 608-361-3206 mbriesemeister@sdb.k12.wi.us.



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