

Three-day job workshop for teens begins



Written by

Emily Shearing

12:59 AM, Feb. 24, 2011|

While some students are enjoying their week off from school, others are choosing to spend their break learning skills to find a job.

On Wednesday, 25 high school students and young people attended the workshop, "Interviews That Get You the Job!" Hosted by RochesterWorks, a nonprofit career services organization, the workshop was the start of its free 3-day "Youth Week" program.

Guest speakers at today's workshop will introduce participants to careers in the medical field. On Friday, the program will conclude with a recruiting event, in which eight companies, including Verizon, Time Warner, Tim Hortons and more, will hold interviews for people ages 16 to 21 looking for jobs.

At Wednesday's workshop, Geoff Bieber, a youth career services specialist, discussed topics from what to wear on a job interview — "the more conservative the better,"

Bieber said — to how to answer difficult questions. Participants also had an opportunity to practice their newly learned skills in mock interviews. "It's the little things," he said. "First impressions, how questions are answered — these lead up to the big thing: getting the job."

Jessica Mateo, 20, of Rochester made a bulleted list of important tips she learned at Wednesday's workshop. "I really learned how to answer (questions) and how to perform during a job interview," she said.

Although Ty Locke said he already knew many of the lessons taught at the workshop, he used the information to refresh his skills.

"It's good to relearn everything and hear it again," said the 19-year-old Rochester resident. Locke said he also utilized the workshop to network and enhance his résumé.

But even for young people on the job hunt, competition is fierce. Melanie McNamara, a

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youth career services specialist at RochesterWorks, said many young people are vying for jobs against more experienced workers who are victims of the recession. Young people "have to be creative in ways of finding employment. They can't just sit there and apply to jobs online," she said. For more information on Rochester Works, visit www.rochesterworks.org.

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