



# Students ace their interviews at E.C. Goodwin Tech

Michelle France | Staff Seniors showcased their portfolios and applied interviewing skills they learned in their career development class at E.C. Goodwin Tech. From left: Daniel Wodz, Diajeh Mccall, and Soannie Arroyo

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NEW BRITAIN - On Friday, seniors at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School showcased their portfolios and applied interviewing skills they learned in their career development class with volunteers from local businesses in a mock-interview assignment.

Two career development teachers at E.C. Goodwin, Rodney Irizarry and Stacey Moed-Klein, began recruiting businesses in January. Irizarry founded the course and wrote the curriculum. Employers asked students a series of questions and graded them on a scale of 0-5. To make it fair, all employers had the same set of questions. Students were given a real grade based on their interview.

Volunteers came from businesses such as Winslow Automatics Inc., Westminster Tool Inc., EDAC technologies, Trumpf Inc., the University of Connecticut, Connecticut National Guard, and Mosa's Nail Spa.

Tracy Reveliotty volunteered as an employer representing New England Institute of Technology. She said she was impressed with how prepared the students were.

"This should be a requirement in every high school. They set the bar high," said Reveliotty.

Following a small pilot last year, this was the first time the school included the entire senior class of over 120 students.

"At the end of the day, they will walk away with a little more confidence because they have these skills," said Irizarry. "They are learning skills the workplace is looking for- 21st century skills. Our goal is to help transition them from school to work," he added.

Many students agreed.



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“It’s a big jump start into a career compared to an average high school,” said high school senior Daniel Wodz.

“The mock-interviews really help build our social skills and gives us a sense of how to interact in an interview,” said high school senior Diajeh Mccall.

Wodz and Mccall will be graduating in June with a certification in Information Systems Technology.

E.C. Goodwin senior Soannie Arroyo praised the program as helping to bridge the gap between women in “male-based” jobs.

“The program is beneficial for females because we get exposure in male-based shops. We get the opportunity to interview with these employers, which gives us a better chance of getting hired,” she said.

Arroyo will be graduating in June with a NIMS certification in Precision Machining.

Moed-Klein said some students even signed up for the Army National Guard and two students landed hair dressing jobs on Friday.

“We’ve been working for two years to get the students ready, so it’s a long process to get them here and get them prepared,” said Moed-Klein. “This is all about the kids-this is our future,”

E.C. Goodwin Technical High School offers students in grades 9-12 career and technical education programs such as in automotive technology, carpentry, culinary arts, electrical, HVAC, and hairdressing and cosmetology. They currently have over 600 students across nine towns.

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