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Learning about building at Garinger

Posted: Sunday, Jul. 04, 2010

Garinger High School students spent the spring semester learning job skills from a local company that exposed them to careers in construction and related fields.

RT Dooley Construction Company and Access Services Inc., partners for several years, worked with Communities in Schools to teach local high school juniors and seniors about careers in the construction industry and help them make contacts that could help them find a job following graduation.

Communities in Schools is the nation's largest dropout-prevention organization, helping young people stay in school and successfully prepare for life by connecting needed community resources with the students and the schools.

The Garinger program began in January with sessions teaching students about the construction industry and entrepreneurial opportunities within the industry.

Frank Johnson, vice president of Access Services and a Garinger High graduate, organized the partnership with Garinger to help his alma mater.

"We have worked to provide participating students with some essential skills and networking opportunities that we hope will help them to secure jobs following graduation," he said. "They especially need that edge during this economic downturn. Everyone involved is interested in investing in our community and this next generation of business leaders."

Johnson said the students learned about architecture, design, project management and LEED, in addition to jobs in the construction industry. LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - is an initiative that involves the construction of buildings that have minimum impact on the environment.

In April, students took a field trip to Bank of America's Superblock Tower in uptown Charlotte. The Bank of America project and the Duke Energy Center are LEED projects and Access Services provides LEED Waste Management Services for both. For representatives had lunch, which included a question and

Sophia Davis, the Communities in Schools site coordinat

imperative to the underserved high school juniors and seniors who participate in the program.

This year's sessions culminated with a campus beautification project at Garinger in May. About 22 students and representatives from RT Dooley, Access Services, Charlotte Paint, Linda Construction, Bonitz and Charlotte Glass renovated a health and wellness room at the school campus. The project involved painting, light demolition and millwork.



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Wematter wrote on 07/04/2010 05:50:20 PM:

This is GREAT and should be available as part of public school education in EVERY high school! We need to realize that not EVERY STUDENT is college "material". A variety of trades classes should be offered in EVERY high school.

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