



THE CHARTER

"Chartering a course in educational innovation"

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The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy's Mission Statement:

The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public School Construction Career Academy is a unique, innovative collaborative partnership between the Cranston Public Schools and the New England Laborers'. The mission of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy is to provide students in grades 9-12 with a solid academic foundation in an authentic learning environment in order to prepare students interested in exploring career options in the construction trades and environmental sciences and to become ethical, productive, responsible citizens of the global society.



Remembering a Fellow Student

Charter School Students are remembering their classmate and dear friend, Stephen Veilleux, Jr. with a very special memorial. Students have come up with a unique and creative way of memorializing their well-respected and beloved pal by using written messages to express what they never had a chance to say to him in person. The stellar student who graduated in June with honors, died in a car accident July 11th of this year. Since Stephen was so caring and thoughtful and also so tall, he was often affectionately referred to as a "big teddy bear." Therefore the students thought it would be very fitting to have their messages sewn into stuffed teddy bears at the "Build-A-Bear" store. The teddy bears will be dressed in cap-and-gown as well as a Celtics uniform, which was Stephen's favorite team. Students will also build a special encasement dedicated in Stephen's memory where the bears will be displayed.

*The Stephen Veilleux, Jr. Memorial Student Activities Fund has been established in his memory. All the proceeds raised will go towards funding student activities for those students in need. Please mail your donations to the following address:

**The Stephen Veilleux, Jr. Memorial Student Activities Fund
The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools
Construction Career Academy**

**4 Sharpe Drive
Cranston, RI 02920
Attention: Dr. Joel Gluck**





Students View Real Human Bodies

47 students got the opportunity to observe real human bodies during an exceptional field trip to the Boston Museum of Science. Science teacher Dr. Joel Gluck organized the trip to the unique and first-of-its-kind exhibition *Body Worlds 2*.

The exhibit features more than 200 real human specimens designed to educate the public about the inner workings of the human body and the effects of lifestyle choices. Dr. Gluck says the trip aids in stimulating curiosity and excitement among students in the areas of anatomy and physiology.

World-of-Work

Writing a resume – interviewing techniques - conflict resolution....

They're all critical skills students learn in the *World-of-Work/Career Exploration* course offered at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy. It's the only course of its kind in the Cranston public school system that gives students vital information on how to effectively seek employment, perform a job professionally and handle any challenges that might arise in the workplace. The course, instructed by Marilyn Coppola, bridges the gap between the classroom and the real world. Students explore career opportunities based on their interests, skills and abilities. Coppola also assists them in applying for and securing jobs in the local community. "I explain to my students the importance of making a great first impression when they get the interview for the job. They are thoroughly prepared – from how to dress, to using the proper body language, to communicating effectively."

That's where the *Cranston Youth Works Summer Job Initiative Program* comes in. The program is a collaboration between the Cranston Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston and the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy. Career Specialist, Cathy Hoffman, serves as a liaison between the students and employer. Not only are most students paid above the minimum wage, but they also earn credits toward graduation. Hoffman assists with any concerns, whether it is a ride to work or personal counseling. Students also need to maintain their grades in order to keep their position.

Through both initiatives, 12 students have found employment at workplaces such as Warwick Floor Surfacing Company, Panera Bread, State Rug and Tasca Automotive.

"Not only is it a great opportunity for students, but also employers" says Hoffman. "Employers find staff that are enthusiastic, have a good attitude, are reliable and may be long term workers."

Eleventh-graders Juan Sanchez, Matthew Rodriguez and Bill Holland work for Tasca in a career field they enjoy, servicing cars and assisting customers. "I would be happy if I could stay here and advance to master technician," says Rodriguez.

Students gain invaluable knowledge by securing work before graduation and sharing those work experiences in the classroom. "Students learn lifelong skills that you can't find in a typical text book. This is incredibly important, especially after a student graduates," says Coppola.

*If you're an employer or community-based organization interested in hiring a student or allowing them to observe job duties in your company, please fill out the attached application. Or you can contact, *World of Work* instructor Marilyn Coppola at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy at 401-270-8692.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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