



## CIS Palm Beach County “Charting for Success” Students Shadow Professionals

Riviera Beach Preparatory and Achievement Academy students enrolled in the CIS “Charting for Success” class spent a day shadowing professionals in the county. Judging by the smiles that were painted on the student’s faces the following day, the project was a tremendous success.

So who were these students, where did they go, and what did they learn?

First was Scott Estache, 18, who shadowed a Massage Therapy student at the Palm Beach Health Academy. Scott came out of the massage therapy classroom dressed for success: a black and white plaid button-down shirt, fresh black jeans, and a crisp pair of white Nikes. Dressing for success has a casual side, and Scott fit the bill. His first words: “I love it here. I am definitely coming here after I graduate.”



Edna House and Melbi Morales, both 17, shadowed Christ Fellowship’s North Campus communications department. Cindy Biernat, the director, gave a run-down of the students’ day, which included not just visiting but actually working in print production. Edna and Melbi were most wowed at how so few people do so many carefully detailed projects on such a large scale. They were further amazed by all the ways to communicate with the public, from print to web to video. Edna and Melbi spent some of the day working on dressing an A-frame stand in preparation for the church’s Christmas Eve service.



Chryssona Kendrick, 19, was in for a busy day shadowing a number of specialty nurses in a number of different departments at the V.A. Hospital. She was so excited about the experience that she asked how to become a regular, more active volunteer. She came back to school, grossing her peers out with stories of dressing wounds and meeting amputee patients. The day definitely furthered her desire to become a nurse.

In Lake Worth, Maria Francisco, 18, had an amazing experience at La Fiesta Radio. La Fiesta’s Program Director, Jesus Ybanez, wanted to give Maria a full dose of broadcast journalism; she didn’t



just speak over the airwaves, but Maria also learned about sales, production, and even recorded and edited her own commercials. To the left is a picture of Maria with La Morena in the station’s front office. Maria asked about coming back to volunteer and

everyone at the station was excited at her excitement. She plans to fill out La Fiesta's internship application and become a regular in the coming months.

At the Department of Juvenile Justice in Lake Worth, Xavier Vickers spent the day shadowing Juvenile Probation Officer, Jamoga Huyler-Ramsey. Xavier, like the rest of the students, got a full plate of life-in-the-shoes-of-a-JPO. He went with Jamoga to the court house as well as to Royal Palm High School to assess a new student on probation. Xavier's observation: "She had attitude." Jamoga used the time to talk with Xavier about his future aspirations as well as about the importance of education in the achievement of his dreams. Xavier, in turn, spoke highly of his shadow buddy and is even more interested now in helping young people make better choices when given a second chance.

The project was a total success! The students enjoyed their learning experience outside of the traditional classroom setting, and several of them were able to make a greater connection between what they are doing here in high school with where they hope to be in their future careers. It seems an excellent, and indeed ideal, way for the school district, the non-profit sector, and the local community to work together for the support and benefit of the students.

A special shout-out goes to Mr. Robert Agostino, the Charting for Success teacher, and Ms. Samantha Ragland, the Communities In Schools Site Coordinator, for making it all happen; and of course, to the local businesses and organizations that hosted the students—Thanks, it couldn't have been done without you!