



# CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEWS

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*A consortium of Business & Finance, Family & Consumer Sciences and Technology & Engineering*

## Charter Oak Science Students Tour Conard's Engineering and Green Energy Facilities

On Thursday, October 22nd over 50 fifth grade students from Charter Oak International Academy visited Conard's Technology & Engineering (T&E) department for the 2nd Annual Engineering and Green Energy Workshop for real-world application of elementary Electricity, Energy and Design units of study. T&E teachers Anthony Truss, Charles Daly, Dan Kolatsky and James Genovese created three activities for these future STEM professionals replicating wind farm efficiency, power meter production and engineering design via state of the art architectural and engineering 3-D software. An aerial drone closed out the session in style!



In a true collaborative effort, students from Conard's Engineering classes mentored these young engineers in the building and design of energy efficient wind mills, electrical circuits and 3-D printing. Students also toured the Community Green Energy Solar Lab, an on-going learning environment made possible from a generous Foundation of WHPS grant and funding from the WHPS district. This continues to be a fantastic, in-district field trip for students and teachers alike within the STEM pathway, allowing a broad range of students to experiment and learn together.



## Business & Finance Students Attend the Financial Reality Fair

Over 40 Hall HS students attended an interactive financial literacy workshop where they were given the opportunity to experience financial challenges faced when starting a life on their own. In this simulation, Business & Finance students of Mrs. Taft and Mrs. Dailey identified a career and were assigned a starting salary and budget sheet to use within a simulated community. Students visited booths staffed with representatives from local area real estate agencies, auto dealerships, insurance agencies, credit unions, furniture stores and other misc. retailers in order to obtain fictional goods and services found in everyday life. Students were even provided with random credit scores and a student loan, an important fact when considering that the average Connecticut college student carries over \$27,000 in debt upon graduation.

By the end of this event students balanced their budgets and met with financial advisors to review their efforts. Those polled after this year's event agreed that Financial Literacy continues to be an essential skill for all high school students.

## AIM— Accounting Is My Major

15 students from Hall HS attended an Accounting career awareness workshop at the University of Hartford to explore accounting as a college major. Students participated in a panel discussion between current Accounting majors and recently graduated accountants who had or were working towards their CPA. At the forefront of these discussions were the importance of participating in college level Accounting courses, completing internships, personal branding and networking. Students quickly learned of the high expectations that this challenging field demands.

These Business & Finance students walked away with a stronger understanding of the college experience and essential aspects for success in the real world.