

Huron High Students Launch On-Line Career Mentoring Network

Last year students from Huron High's Graphic Communications department with help from students of Pioneer High School and Project Education launched the Insite Mentoring Network. The Insite Mentoring Network is an interactive, web-based resource where middle and high school students can safely interface with the adult world to gain an advantage in their pursuit of academic or career goals.

The Insite Mentoring Network is produced entirely by the students, with guidance from Michael Riesterer, Huron High School Graphic Communications teacher, Bert Chapman, Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) School-to-Work consultant, Earl Shaffer, Director of the Career and Technical Education department, and Paul Fortier, the Network's director. This school year, there are 24 students in charge of production.

According to Fortier, "The students really do it all. They pick the adults they want to interview from a waiting list of pre-screened mentor applicants, conduct the interviews and produce the adults' web profiles which are then included in our mentor database. Students also produce other students' on-line resumes, posting examples of their best work for inclusion in our soon-to-open student database."

There are currently 30 mentor profiles posted in the database, with 45 profiles waiting to be posted, and 60 mentors on a waiting list to be interviewed, Fortier says. The background and expertise of mentors covers a wide range of



AAPS students interview Paul A. Mueller, president, Control Gaging, Inc. at a June 1999 job shadow experience sponsored by Insite Mentoring Network, Washtenaw Development Council and the AAPS Career and Technical Education Department.

areas. "We have teachers, CAD operators, lawyers, folks in construction, higher education, sales and marketing, visual arts, web production and career mentors representing many more areas. Our current database includes three local computer programmers who have volunteered to advise students with an interest in that field and we have five more programmers waiting to be posted. We are now beginning our second production at Huron and we expect our database to double in three months."

The Insite Mentoring Network is available to any student in Washtenaw County free of charge. To search for a career mentor, all you have to do is go to the website www.mentoringnetwork.org and click on "Search Mentors". Follow the instructions to search for and find career mentors in your area of interest. Then, go to the mentor's "core" page and log-in using the name "guest" and the password "insite." On the mentor's pro-

file pages will be information about the mentor's professional interests, personal and career milestones and the mentor's reflections on choices he/she made along the way.

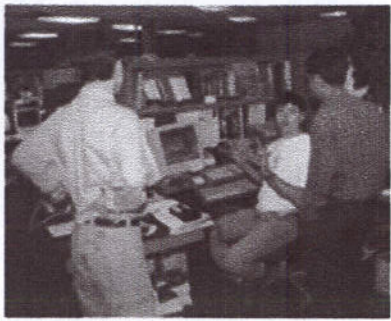
Even though all mentors are carefully screened and all submit to a background check and police clearance before participating, the interaction between student and mentor is kept anonymous. Students are given an on-site account so they do not need an email address to correspond with career mentors.

In fact, all correspondence from both mentors and students is forwarded through the Insite account. Fortier monitors the dialogue to ensure that the interaction remains anonymous and focused on career-related issues. In addition to the profiles in the mentor database, students have also produced Day at Work web features which allow the public to virtually job shadow mentors in different careers.

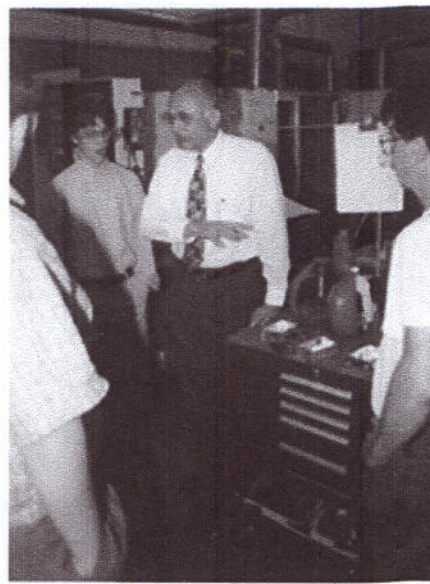
The Insite Mentoring Network is sponsored by the AAPS' Career and Technical Education Department in partnership with the Insite Mentoring Program, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, the State of Michigan's Next Day Program, University of Michigan, America Online, the Huron Valley Community Network, and nine other agencies.

For more information, contact Paul Fortier at (734)995-8853 or pfash@umich.edu.

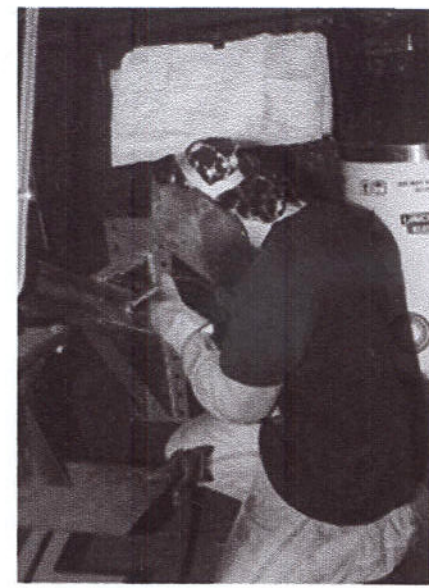
Or, visit the Insite Mentoring Network's website at www.mentoringnetwork.org. ■



James Hilks, system administrator for Control Gaging, Inc. explains his work to AAPS students during a job shadowing activity in June 1999.

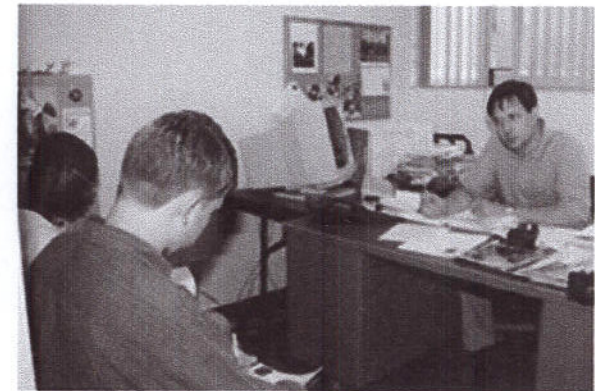


Paul Miller, President of Control Gaging, Inc. gives a plant tour to AAPS students during a job shadowing activity in June 1999.

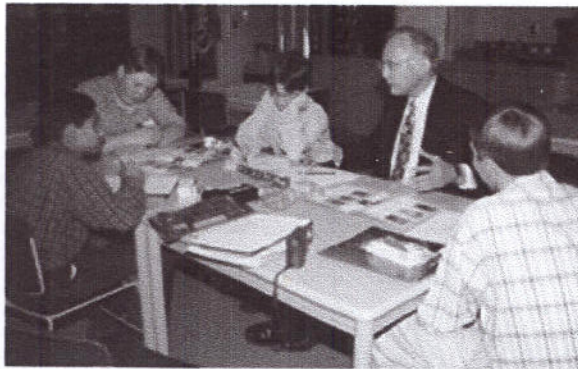


A welder demonstrated his craft for AAPS students during a job shadowing activity at UBE Machinery in June 1999.

All the photos on page were taken during a *Job Shadowing in Manufacturing* event that took place in June 1999. This event was Sponsored by AAPS' Career and Tech Ed. dept. and the Washtenaw Manufacturer's Council collaborating with the Insite Mentoring Program. The interviews and photos gathered by students during this four day event, as well as the students' own on-line resumes, will be posted on the Insite web site by the end of the fall '99 school term.



Tom Clark, director of UBE Machinery's mechanical engineering department gives AAPS students an overview of his responsibilities and daily activities at the company during a June '99 job shadowing activity



Paul Miller, President of Control Gaging, Inc. gives AAPS students a tour of the company's plant during a job shadowing activity in June 1999.