



Lowell High students tackle new assignment: Land that job!

By Dennis Shaughnessey,
dshaughnessey@lowellsun.com

Updated: 05/08/2009 10:06:13 AM EDT



Lowell High students Jasmin Perea, left, and Julia Pagan, both 16, fill out applications to work at LeLacheur Park for the Spinners during yesterday's job fair in the school cafeteria. SUN/TORY GERMANN

LOWELL -- Eric Germano, an 18-year-old Lowell High School sophomore, wore a crisp suit, collar and tie, and a winning smile.

Sixteen-year-old Julius Sekays, a junior at the school, wore jeans, a T-shirt and a baseball cap -- backwards.

Middlesex Community College Program Director Maria Cunha approached the boys.

"If you were both applying for a position, who do you think would get the job?" Cunha asked, as students filed into the Lowell High cafeteria for the 13th annual Youth Job Fair.

"Um, he would," said Sekays, pointing at Germano with his thumb. "He's all fresh. He's more presentable and he'll get a job more quicker than a dude that looks like me. I should've dressed up a little."

Focused and determined



Spinners Assistant General Manager Brian Lindsay, right, hands an application to Lowell High student Sorie Sankoh, 19, left, as students Alexander Kennedy, 20, seated, and Amadu Jalloh, 19, put in their applications during yesterday's job fair at the school. SUN /TORY GERMANN

to land a summer job, Germano said the suit and tie are just part of his plan to do whatever it takes to get a job. He filled out applications at as many of the 42 businesses that were represented as he could.

"I need to start my life," he said. "I need money, so I need a job."

But jobs are scarce, said Cunha. Because of the weak economy, adults are now taking many jobs that ordinarily go to high-school students.

"You walk into a supermarket or a Dunkin' Donuts and you see adults where one time you would have seen kids," Cunha said, adding that she expected more students at this year's job fair than in previous

Advertisement

End-to-End Training as It Should Be: 100% ONLINE!

Earn Your Master Certificate in Internet Marketing

→ SEO & Paid Search	→ Internet Law
→ Online Branding	→ Media Buying
→ Web Analytics	→ Social Media

➔

1-800-268-9943

USanFranOnline.com/FD

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™



years.

"We had 600 students last year and I expect about 800 to 900 kids this year," she said. "We have over 40 different businesses here, including financial institutions, health care, hotels, in addition to the Burger Kings and the McDonald's."

Andy Chandonnet, youth-services director at the YWCA in Lowell, said he is targeting not only students, but young adults.

"Up to 24 years old," Chandonnet said. "We need about 16 people with a variety of experience. Summer-camp workers, the Greater Lowell Green Team -- mostly recycling -- and we also have community-based internship projects.



Below, students crowd around the Dunkin' Donuts table. SUN /TORY GERMANN

It's good experience for them."

Long lines formed at the McDonald's table, as well as Burger King, KFC/Taco Bell and Domino's Pizza,

but students also gravitated toward the banks -- Enterprise Bank, Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, Washington Savings Bank and others.

Lois Bousquet, a human-resources specialist at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, told a group of students that the only requirement to fill out an application was that they be 17. Several students moved on, but most sat down and grabbed a pen.

"We have two positions open right now," Bousquet said. "But there are always jobs opening up for tellers, and they're one step ahead if they have their application in."

Bousquet said she knows of at least two people who began as co-op students from Lowell High School and are now branch managers.

Maybe it was the free Munchkins or the coffee-cup ornaments, but a crowd was gathered around the Dunkin' Donuts table.

"We have 26 stores in the Greater Lowell area and we are always looking for help," said Louis Pacheco, a manager at the Dunkin' Donuts on the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Mammoth Road in Dracut.

Debbie Miller, assistant sales director at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, said she is looking for banquet help, kitchen staff and a lifeguard.

The Wingate, a health-care facility in Lowell, is seeking a receptionist and a dietary aide in the kitchen, among other things.

Dressed in a skirt and blouse, with her hair neatly tied back, 18-year-old Blanca Huezo of Lowell filled out an application from NMTW Community Credit Union in Lowell.

"This is my fourth application," said the Lowell High

Advertisement



Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech

FLORIDA TECH
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



junior. "I've been to two banks and a hospital. I really need the money. My mother is not able to pay for my college and I only have one year left to save. I want to be a lawyer."

Brian Lindsay held court at the Lowell Spinners' table, looking for hawkers, vendors and concessionaires. He explained to a small group of students that the job requires somebody with enthusiasm and desire to walk up and down the aisles of the baseball stadium all night, selling souvenirs.

"I wouldn't mind that," said one boy.

"No, no. You don't understand," said Lindsay. "We're not looking for people who wouldn't mind doing this. We want people who really, really, really want to do this. There is a huge difference."

Advertisement

The advertisement features the Florida Tech University Online logo on the left, which includes a circular emblem with a globe and the text "Florida Tech UNIVERSITY ONLINE". To the right of the logo, the text reads "Bring the Classroom to Your Home With a Degree Online From Florida Tech". Below this, there is a circular icon with a right-pointing arrow and the text "APPLY TODAY! FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946". On the far right, there is a black and white photograph of an older man with glasses, holding a white pointer stick, standing in front of a chalkboard with mathematical equations like $E=mc^2$ and $p=mv$.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™