



FUTURE 5 helps motivated, low-income high school students in Stamford connect to their full potential.

January News

Future 5's Job Prep Workshop Kicks-Off



Welcome Mayor!

Thank You

Stamford Mayor David Martin stops by to speak with **Future 5** students.

This week Stamford Mayor David Martin stopped by to speak with the student members of **Future 5**.

The event with the Mayor kicked-off the sixth year of **Future 5**'s very popular and vital **Job Prep** workshop. This workshop provides the students with six weeks of "soft skills" training for the workplace – communication skills, professionalism, work ethic, teamwork, etc. **Job Prep** graduates then qualify for visits to Stamford corporations, job shadowing and internships. **Future 5** provides each of them with ongoing coaching help for after school and summer job searches – including resume help, mock interviews and search strategies. Historically approximately 95% of **Future 5** graduates are successful in landing part time jobs, including jobs through the Mayor's Youth Employment program.

The Mayor talked with approximately 25 students in attendance along with a number of volunteer coaches and staff. He touched upon topics such as his own education and career path, the importance of an educated, youthful workforce in Stamford, qualities of a successful employee, the

Mayor's Youth Employment program and the future employment outlook in Stamford.

Mayor Martin explained he believed that what is critical to be successful when becoming part of the workforce is to "be reliable and be engaged". He stressed to the students that it is important to communicate this to a prospective employer in an interview and most importantly show it on the job. He also answered some tough questions from the students including "What obstacles in life did you overcome?", "How did you find a job in line with your college degree?", "How are you planning to encourage job growth

in Stamford?", "What is bringing people to Stamford?", and "How do you see Stamford changing in the next five years?"

Before being able to move on to **Future 5**'s **Job Prep** workshop, students must complete the required "Here2There" workshop, which focuses on the importance of motivation, commitment, self-control, overcoming gremlins and concludes with students creating a personalized game plan for their future. Currently there are 115 **Future 5** members.

Prior to the Mayor's visit that afternoon, students participated in **Future 5**'s weekly Brain Wave session – a lively and spirited Trivial Pursuit-type game designed to test students' knowledge of current events and the world around them. Lead by executive director and New Canaan resident Clif McFeely, students competed for points by answering questions on topics trending in the news. "It's important for the students to be involved and engaged, not only during our workshops but with what's going on out in the world. Brain Wave helps in a challenging and fun way," said McFeely. McFeely encourages students to dig deeper than the headlines and provide context for their answers, and he frequently awards bonus points for particularly thought-provoking answers. It's all in the spirit of good fun and the student with the most points wins a small prize.



Future 5 Students Go Behind the Scenes at NBCUniversal's Stamford Media Center

Adam Soroto, left, senior director, explains how "The Jerry Springer Show" is produced while **Future 5** students are on the set during a tour of NBCUniversal's Stamford Media Center.

OVERHEARD

AT FUTURE 5

- "I've got this. I put in the work, now I just need to show them I deserve a spot."
- "You know, good grades lead to good colleges which lead to a good life."
- "Lucky Charms aren't a healthy option? Wait until I tell my mother!"

Future 5 Graduates Return



Future 5 alumni joined Cliff McFeely for a picture during our holiday festivities.

- 1. Jaelle Dorival** – She graduated from Westhill High School in 2011. She currently is a senior at St. John’s University, majoring in Homeland and Corporate Security. She works as an intern at Future 5.
- 2. Aicha Agrebi** – She graduated from Stamford High School in 2011. Works as a makeup artist at Lord and Taylor. She currently is attending Norwalk Community College.
- 3. Hermione Illaire** – Graduated in 2013. Currently attends Norwalk Community College, majoring in Nursing.
- 4. Bryan Mendoza** – He graduated high school in 2013. Currently attends University of Connecticut – Stamford with double major in Psychology and English. He is serving in the US National Guard as Military Police.
- 5. Lindsay Bosquet** – Graduated in 2013. She is in a nursing program in NY and is expected to graduate in June. She is also in her first year at Norwalk Community College (NCC).
- 6. Erick Bravo** – Certified medical billing and coding specialist.
- 7. Mildred Pacheco** – She graduated from Westhill High School. She currently is a sophomore attending Naugatuck Community College where she is studying Law.
- 8. David Montoya** – Graduated from Stamford High School in 2013. He attended Porter and Chester Institute and has become a certified electrician. He currently works at Cablevision.
- 9. Christine Fils-Aime** – (Honorary Alum) Transferred from Norwalk Community College to Post University. She is majoring in Child Psychology. This past year she made dean’s list.
- 10. Florence Grant** – She graduated from Stamford High in 2013. She is currently a sophomore at Northeastern University. This past year she made dean’s list.
- 11. Brionna West** – Graduated from Stamford High School in 2014. She is currently attending Western Connecticut State University, majoring in Pre-Med/ Biology.
- 12. Medinard Michel** – Graduated from Trinity Catholic High School in 2014. Is currently attending University of Massachusetts Amherst, majoring in psychology.
- 13. Shemar Morgan** – Graduated from Westhill High School in 2014. He is attending Norwalk Community College. He has received a scholarship to go to Penn State.
- 14. Chistie Carrenard** – Graduated from Stamford High School in 2014. She is currently attending University of Connecticut – Stamford, majoring in Biology.
- 15. Andy Augustin** – He graduated from Stamford High School in 2014. He is currently a freshman at Central Connecticut State University.
- 16. Luis Hernandez** – He graduated from Westhill High School. He is currently attending Norwalk Community College and is pursuing a liberal arts degree. He will be graduating in December. He will be transferring to Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall.
- 17. Yazmin Pacheco** – She is in her senior year at UCONN Stamford. She is currently studying business analytics.
- 18. Tanzina Idris** – She graduated from Westhill High School in 2014. She is currently attending Norwalk Community College and hasn’t decided her major.
- 19. Sophie Cam** – She graduated from Westhill High school in 2012. She is currently a junior at American University in DC. Next semester she is going abroad to Exeter England.
- 20. Miriam Desgazon** – She graduated in 2013. She is a sophomore at Central Connecticut State University. She is a social major and is planning to study abroad next semester (January) for 5 months in Poland.
- 21. Antonia Joseph** – She graduated from Westhill High School in 2013. She completed the CNA program at Norwalk Community College. She is a certified nursing assistant looking for position within that field.

Read the complete stories and more at futurefive.org/news

