

To: Levittown Tribune, LI Works Coalition, District Newsletter, High School Newsletter,
The Bulldog

From: Carol Siegel

Date 1/21/10

Re: Press Release

ASTORIA FEDERAL HELPS ISLAND TREES REACH FOR THE S.T.A.R.S.!

On January 14, 2010, at the Long Island Marriott, the students enrolled in Career Advantage at Island Trees High School, had the opportunity to participate in the Fifth Annual S.T.A.R.S (Students Taking Action for Real Success) Interview Conference made possible through a grant from Astoria Federal Savings.

Eighty eleventh and twelfth grade students were required to attend the conference for a very different kind of mid-term exam. The S.T.A.R.S Interview Conference is the brain child of the Island Trees School to Business Partnership headed up by Carol Siegel, Career Coordinator. Instrumental in the planning were Lois Cornibert, Astoria Federal Savings Levittown Branch Manager; Beth Dalton-Costello, Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Homes and Evelyn Goldband, ITHS.

The students arrived in business attire with resume in hand ready to experience an interview among other activities, which included a motivating Keynote address by television news anchor Carol Silva, News 12 Long Island. After the keynote the students attended two half-hour workshops called *Communicating For Success* and *Interviewing, How To Stand Out In A Crowd* given by the respected On Track Skills, Inc. Human Resource Executives, Kathy and Ken Walden. The workshops were specifically designed to address the needs and interests of high school students. The students then were part of a professional business luncheon. At the end of the day, Felix Nater, Nater Associates Ltd gave a motivational lecture called, *Attitude. A Powerful Differentiator.*

While the luncheon was in progress, the students went to their interview appointments. Each student had a mock interview with a business professional. The professionals participating in this worthwhile event were: **John Rezek**, Island Trees Schools; **Dolores Ciaccio**, Farmingdale State University; **Robert Hazelton**, New Bridge Employees Assistance Services; **Ed Dietze**, CAMP Systems International Inc; **Eleanor Sorrentino** Emblem Health; **Michael Carbone**, Astoria Federal Savings; **Frank Mckenna** IT Library; **Rich Boyco**, Dalton Funeral Homes; **Allan Crohn**, Best Buy Stores; **John DiLiberto**, Island Drafting and Technical Institute; **Fred Form**, Accountant; **Peter Ray**, AG Electrical Supply; **Ann Torcivia**; Friends Travel; **Peter F. Chiacchiaro**, New Island Hospital; **Theresa Faughnan**, Hospital for Special Surgery; **Bernard Jaramillo**, Chase Bank; **Dr. Charles Murphy**, Superintendent, Island Trees Schools; **Andrew Alesi**, Astoria Federal Savings and **Paul McKee**, Principal Financial.

The students had the experience of dressing for an interview, preparing a resume, and actually being interviewed. It was an invaluable experience for the Career Advantage students of Island Trees High School and an extraordinary opportunity to practice

interviewing. The Island Trees School District is the only school district that gives this kind of opportunity to its young people.