

Impressions

End-of-Year Celebration for Exploring



Exploring Graphic Communications Post # 1111 celebrated the end of its first year on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. PrintForce ended the year with eleven students eligible for high school credit. Eight of the eleven students attended the celebration, evaluated the post's performance, and received their certificates of completion.

To explore different processes throughout the year, the post produced special certificates using digital printing, foil stamping, embossing, and letterpress. Pictorial Edge, Graphic Specialties of the S. E., and Heritage Printers were all generous with resources to make the project a success. Carlton Crump, Exploring Director, stated that it was unique and exciting to see the special certificates produced by the post.

The final meeting was used to reflect on all the activities of the first year. Students viewed a slide show of pictures taken during various meetings. On display were samples of other projects produced by the post — holiday labels designed by members of the post and printed at Central Piedmont Community College and personalized calendars produced at Pictorial Edge.

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During the school year, Explorers toured six companies, Central Piedmont Community College, and Graphic Arts The Charlotte Show 2003 to experience a wide variety of printing processes. Here, Bill Loftin, Sr. explains the many steps involved in the traditional methods of typesetting using Linotype and letterpress technology at Heritage Printers, Charlotte, NC.

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Celebration

Students were asked to evaluate the first year. When asked what part of Post # 1111 was best, D. Duru-lheoma, 10th grader at Harding said, “Getting to visit different companies because I realized how diverse the industry was.”

Students expressed that their ideas about graphic communications have changed. J. Brown, a 10th grader at West Mecklenburg, stated “I have realized just how very, very vast or huge this field really is. There are just so many career options.”

We planned our year to give students a broad picture of the industry and at the same time help them begin to identify specific career options. D. Duru-lheoma, 10th grader at Harding stated, “I learned that there’s more to graphic communications than just designing.” P. Besterman, 11th grader at South Mecklenburg said, “I got to see all the different types of jobs that are involved in graphic communications. I learned there are designers, people who do technical stuff, and the people who actually print.”

Exploring is a great fit for the PrintForce career awareness initiative. Through the many experiences of the post students can achieve keener insight into the scope of the industry. Hopefully they will develop interest through learning and having fun. Students’ comments about Post # 1111 speak of a great success.



Exploring Post # 1111 takes a close look at printing during the January meeting at Classic Graphics, Charlotte, NC.

Comments from Post #1111

“Thanks, I learned a lot more than I anticipated . . .” C. Clark, senior at Harding.

P. Besterman, 11th grader at South Mecklenburg, “I think this was a great post! I have been in two others and this has been the most hands-on and informative!”

D. Vondeuane, senior at West Mecklenburg, “In all I had fun because I learned a lot. I’m glad I was introduced into this field.”

PrintForce Brings Awareness to Fort Mill Students



On April 9, 2003, students from Fort Mill High School toured Belk Printing Technologies and CCL Label. All students were 9th graders who selected graphic communications as an area of interest through an employability skills class. The tour was arranged with the assistance of the Catawba Technology Education Consortium.

Some students liked seeing the machines and learned a great deal. When asked about their favorite part of the day, Lance said, "Seeing the stuff print because it was amazing." Hayley's favorite part was "seeing all the different machinery and hearing peoples' experiences."

When asked how their ideas about printing have changed students generally responded that they had never realized how many steps to the process nor had they realized how many different products are printed. Katy said, "I see it is difficult, but interesting, and that printing is important."

Brian liked "seeing the squeeze Skippy because it is cool to see things I use. I had a lot of fun and learned many new things." He said, "I never really knew anything about printing and I learned a lot about it today. I had a lot of fun." That sums it up. PrintForce is about people realizing that printing is all around them and that there are exciting and interesting career opportunities open to them.



Fort Mill High School students were wowed by the wide variety of printing processes during the recent PrintForce tour. From left to right, students toured the finishing department at Belk Printing Technologies, gained first-hand knowledge of press-sheets at Belk, and were given a complete demonstration of an inline flexographic press at CCL Label.

Awareness Gains Interest

PrintForce held a career awareness event in Winston-Salem on April 29, 2003. Twenty high school students and chaperones from Davie and Forsyth counties toured Forsyth Technical Community College, OPC Packaging Corporation and Winston Printing Company.

At Forsyth Tech, students viewed demonstrations of process printing, Adobe Photoshop and flexographic printing and they were involved in hands-on screen printing their own T-shirt. These activities set the stage for viewing machinery and processes during company tours that would follow.

During plant tours, students exclaimed amazement at the many steps required to make a finished product and about how interesting the different machinery seemed. They were surprised by the many different career opportunities and by the amount of skill required.

Afterwards, at the Forsyth Tech Open House, students and industry came together to hear presentations by John Goodell and Robin Williams of Appalachian State University about articulation of credits between FTCC and ASU. A student can accumulate enough credits at the community college to transfer as a junior to ASU.

The purpose of PrintForce is accomplished by creating awareness and capturing interest of the attendees. P. Redman, senior at Davie, "I feel there are more job opportunities than I imagined there to be." J. Maness, senior at Career Center stated the best part of the day was seeing the production processes. He might think about changing his major to printing graphics.

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Top: At Winston Printing Company, students learn about die cutting. Bottom: Students engage in screen printing T-shirts.

When asked what is the best part of the day . . .

P. Redman, Davie High, ". . . learning about four color process because I was new to the whole idea."

"Observing all of the different types of machinery that makes printing possible. I'm amazed of how their methods are made out on everyday life," J. Morrison, Reynolds High.

"Seeing behind the scenes because I got a close look at what work it takes to make the product," T. Smith, West Forsyth High.

Awareness

When asked how ideas about printing careers have changed . . .

“My ideas about printing have somewhat risen; that I’m eager to learn more and work with printing,” J. Morrison, Reynolds High School.

“Before I wasn’t sure if this was what I want to study. Now I’m sure this is what I want to take in college,” H. Phillips, Davie High School.

S. Brown, North Forsyth High School, “It has made me more open towards this field. I appreciate everyone’s efforts they put into this day for me. It was most enjoyable and more than worth my time.”

“I never knew it required so much skill and time. It’s really interesting how everything works,” H. Corn, Mt. Tabor High School.



Top left: Students were mesmerized by tools and tricks of Photoshop during the Winston-Salem event. Bottom left: Students learn about the importance of registration marks on a presssheet at Winston Printing Company. Bottom right: At OPC Packaging, everyday items such as bottle labels, become real printing examples to these curious students.