

Daytona Beach News Journal

April 30, 2008

A made-for-TV job fair

Students explore 'CSI' career choices

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PALM COAST -- Brittany Evans said she watches "a lot of CSI" on television. And she hopes to one day find herself working the technical side of crime scenes just like the ones portrayed on the popular primetime television show.

"I like the idea of working with dead people and finding evidence," Evans, a 16-year-old sophomore at Flagler Palm Coast High School, said.

A booth at her high school's recent career fair set up by the Daytona Beach branch of Keiser University gave her the opportunity to find out more about the road ahead. She was able to speak with a guidance counselor for the college to learn what courses she may want to take before graduating high school to give her an extra boost toward the next leg of her dream.

Evans also was fingerprinted by a Keiser student that will soon graduate from the university's crime scene technology program in Daytona Beach. And she learned how to make a mold of a shoe print and collect fingerprints from an object using finger print dust and packing tape.

Keiser University, which is accredited by the same agency as other four-year universities in the area like University of Central Florida, Daytona Beach Community College and Stetson University, has more than 13,000 students enrolled in 48 degree programs on 13 campuses, according to spokeswoman Kelli Lane.

In the Daytona Beach campus, the crime scene technology program is just four years old, professor John Gaspar said. Gaspar, a former law enforcement officer and investigator in New York and Flagler County, said making the move to Keiser after his retirement from the Flagler County Sheriff's Office last year was "another step in my ministry in law enforcement."

And though he does many demonstrations in local schools, the career fair at Flagler Palm Coast High was a special one for Gaspar, he said. He's a former school resource deputy supervisor for FPC that provided safety for faculty and students and offered

forensic analysis on crimes that happened there for two years of the 33 he spent working in law enforcement.

The fair was a chance to share what he's learned after multiple decades in law enforcement with a new generation, Gaspar said.

As students funneled in and out of the gym that morning, Keiser's booth at the fair wasn't the only to draw crowds. And many seemed to hold the teens' attention quite well.

One of the attention-getters was James Majcen, an information technology applications manager for the city of Palm Coast. Majcen talked to teens about computer technology and the importance of satellite mapping in city government. He said it's a "high demand" field and as cities continue to "embrace" new mapping technology to aid them in their planning and development efforts, students can turn themselves into highly marketable members of the workforce.

Another busy booth belonged to a new fast food restaurant making its way to Palm Coast. Planned for the same intersection as the school on Bulldog Drive and State Road 100 this September, a manager for the Daytona Beach-based franchise of Sonic Drive-in said the owner was hoping to connect with 80-100 teen applicants for the new store.

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