



Trenton BTE

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BTE FAMILY SERVING THE COMMUNITY!





Our Future Leaders



By Anudeep Deevi

On February 5th, the Bridge to Employment program hosted its first leadership conference at The College of New Jersey. Students from the Trenton, Bound Brook, Norristown and Wissahickon BTE sites came together to learn more about harnessing their inner leadership skills. The day was filled with interesting and immersive leadership workshops that included roundtable discussion between BTE students from different schools. Dr. Avani Rao along with college students from the Pride Peer Mentoring program facilitated discussion on the different types of leaders. Afterwards, students were given a presentation on the college application process where they had the chance to ask any questions they may have had about applying. Later on, students were given a tour of the campus and all of its major landmarks. The day ended with the students eating lunch at the college's dining hall, completing their full day immersion into the life of a college student. We can't wait to see our students use the skills they learned and the connections they made as they move further on into their careers.



Science Challenge Days

Chemistry

As Bridge to Employment slowly winds down, students have been extremely busy with college and scholarship applications. This semester, we are also placing much of our focus on career exploration. On January 29th and February 19th, we had two groups from The College of New Jersey provide exploration into the fields of chemistry and engineering.

During the chemistry day, students had the opportunity to cycle through different experiments led by TCNJ chemistry students and Dr. Benny Chan. After students had the chance to watch the experiments, they had to recreate them themselves! In addition to recreating the experiments, the scientific concepts around each experiment were explained. Finally, the BTE students heard from the TCNJ students about why they chose their college majors.

By Vineeth Amba



Engineering



On February 19th, BTE students were exposed to the field of biomedical engineering with the help of TCNJ iSTEM students and Dr. Manuel Figueroa. The focus of this workshop was exploring how the principles of engineering could be applied to the real world, in the form of prosthetics. After being given a brief instructional lesson about how muscles and bones work together in the human body and the anatomy of the hand, students were split into teams and given materials ranging from yarn to cardboard to create a hand that had the ability to squeeze. The day was also supported by career coaches from Janssen Pharmaceuticals who guided students in the creation of their projects.

Going into the future, BTE students will take the knowledge they learned and reinforce it in a community setting. On March 25th they will travel to P.J. Hill Elementary School to teach the concepts they learned to younger students and encourage them to consider science careers.



Service in Philly



By Taylor Ankrah

On February 26th, the Bridge to Employment program visited Philadelphia to participate in community service in collaboration with the Bethesda Project and Women with Voices Charity. The Bethesda Project, a series of homeless shelters spaced throughout the city of Philadelphia, aims “to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be families with those who have none”. Our students had the opportunity to serve in this mission first-hand! The BTE students were split between two different Bethesda Project locations. The first half of the students participated in improving the environment and the community surrounding the shelter by cleaning up litter and other forms of trash. Following these activities, the students wrote words of encouragement in greeting cards for the homeless expected to arrive at the shelter later that evening. The other half of our students began the day at an all-male shelter assembling hygiene kits containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand wipes, and other necessary toiletries. The majority of their day was then dedicated to preparing the shelter for their daily lunch service. The students were then split again into two different groups: one group was responsible for preparing food for service in the kitchen and the other half of the students were responsible for preparing the dining hall for an enjoyable and elegant experience for its Bethesda family. Upon lunch time, students took part in serving the food and hosting the community members they had long waited to see. Our students had an incredible experience giving back, as they often do, and can’t wait to serve with the Bethesda Project again!



What We Did

"We built a hand & learned about prosthetics" - K.G.

What We Learned

"How certain metals react in water" - R.P.

"The process of experimenting. I wish we had a do over" - M.M.

"Science can be fun" - T.P.

What We Loved

"Meeting other BTE students" - E.P.

"Trying to make the hands work" - M.J.

"Building the 'hand'" - E.M.

"Helping make the food" - W.G.



College Acceptances

Gianni has been accepted to Monmouth and St. Bonaventure

Miracle has been accepted to St. Joseph's, Montclair and Hofstra

Shaquan has committed to Mercer for video game design.

Rayanna has committed to Mercer for before moving onto a university.

Tatianna has been accepted to Rowan

Eduardo has been accepted to Rowan and Rutgers Camden

By William Kimberly



Thank You

Johnson & Johnson

We want to say thank you to Johnson & Johnson for giving us this opportunity to explore parts of the health field we never knew. BTE brings the J&J Credo to life through your commitment to community and bringing better health education!

FHI 360

We want to thank FHI360 for all of your guidance and support this year. Your help makes our program, and programs all over the world run smoothly!

Janssen Career Coaches

We would like to give a special thank you to the Janssen mentors for taking the time to come work with us at our school this year and hosting us during events at Janssen!

TCNJ Bonners

We want to say thank you to the Bonners for spending time with us and helping us along this journey. You took time out of your day to help when you didn't need to.

Trenton Public Schools

We would like to thank the Trenton Public Schools staff for their support of the program and allowing us to have it at our school.

BTE Staff

We would like to thank the BTE staff for putting together all of the activities for this year! You also were there for us when we needed anything and we appreciate that!

Family & Friends

Most importantly, we would all like to thank our parents and family for letting us be in this program and working with BTE. Even when plans changed or when we arrived home late, you continued to support and assist us. Thank you so much!