

Students get a little face time



Sun photograph by VICTOR FITZSIMONS

Harrison High School senior Danniele Croff interviews with Central Michigan Community Hospital nursing director Denise Moore during a student mock interview day at CMU Wednesday.

High school students get tips on entering the workforce

By JEREMY H. DICKMAN
Sun Community Editor

Area students were on their best behavior Wednesday as they learned the do's and don'ts of getting into the workforce.

The annual "Mock Interview Day" presented by Middle Michigan Development Corp. brought 287 junior and senior students from Farwell, Harrison, Beal City, Clare, Mt. Pleasant Area Technical Center, Mt. Pleasant Christian Academy, and Shepherd High School to Central Michigan University's Bovee University Center.

Under the theme of "Hit a Career Home Run," students were interviewed by potential employers, had their resumes and job applications

critiqued, and learned helpful tips on how to dress for success, identity protection, interpersonal skills and workplace character during "break-out sessions" with professionals. Tours of CMU's Park Library were also given.

"It provides students an opportunity to utilize the interview skills they learned in the classroom prior to pursuing their career choice is an experience students shall never for-

(See Interviews, Page 2A)

Interviews

(Continued from Page 1A)

get and employers should take great pride in their involvement in such an experience," said Carolyn Bennett, director of promotions and workforce development for MMDC.

Butterflies could be felt throughout the Bovee University Center as students prepared for their first interview.

As she readied for her interview with Mt. Pleasant Fire Department Capt. Andy Theisen, Harrison High School senior Holly Godfrey said she was confident.

"I think my resume is good and this will give me an idea of what the career is all about," Godfrey said.

For those already going through the interview process, the opportunity for advice was priceless.

"I could have been better prepared for it, but the process was exactly what I thought it would be," said Dan Green, Harrison High School senior. "I was able to answer the questions, but I had to think about some of them for a few seconds. I would try to be more prepared if I could do it over."

Green said the experience was worth it, even though he acknowledged

that he would have preferred to be better prepared.

"It was definitely a good experience for me and now I know what to expect so when I'm in a real interview I am prepared for it," Green said.

In going through interviews with students, Becky Bolles, from Hall, Lewis, and Bolles P.C. in Mt. Pleasant, said she was looking for a good presence and someone who could communicate their positive attributes.

"It really helps the students get past that initial nervousness with interviews," Bolles said.

Resume critiquing was also beneficial for the students.

"I think it went great," said Taylor Campbell, Harrison High School senior. "She offered me a lot of hints and pointers that would put me ahead of the game and into the working crowd."

One especially helpful piece of advice many students received was to be less modest and sell themselves more.

"She told me to toot my own horn," Campbell said of her professional.

On the business side, the professionals said making one stand out over the competition is key.

"From my experiences students need to be able to express themselves and expand on their personal experiences," said Les Wilkes, MMI employee and interviewer.

Resume reviewer Lucinda Clark, general manager at the Microtel Inn, said students taking part in this event could get advice they may not otherwise be able to get.