

An Alternative Route to Success at CAMPUS!



Alumni from New Rochelle's Campus Alternative High School recently returned to the school to share their success stories with the Board of Education and community members on hand. During a recent September Board meeting, Minion Garner, Andre Hatchett, Cynthia Hendrickson, Nick Ryan and Angela Venochi provided heartwarming testimonial on how the school not only helped them overcome personal adversities and focus on their schoolwork, but also propelled them to higher learning and put each one of them on a successful career track.

Since graduating from Campus High School, Mr. Ryan studied culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University, worked overseas in the hospitality business and even won a cooking contest run by renowned chef Bobby Flay. He presently works as a chef at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains. Mr. Hatchett has since gone on to become a licensed realtor and presently owns his own notary business. Ms. Venochi teaches art in the New York City School system and works with children with special needs. Ms. Hendrickson is a special education teacher for the New York City Schools as well and is currently pursuing her administrative certificate. Ms. Garner is a social worker and before embarking on her career finished near the top of her class at Fordham University.



Each speaker thanked Campus School Principal Joel Fridovich for his guidance and leadership during their time at the school, as well as other team members who had made a difference in their lives. The overwhelming majority of Campus School alumni continue to maintain ongoing contacts with the school staff, long after their graduation, referring to their connections as almost, "family like" supports.

"Many people may assume that if an alternative high school gets students through high school graduation, that that is a big accomplishment. Maybe it is, but it is just the first step," said Mr. Fridovich in his closing remarks. "Our alumni have gone on to an impressive list of colleges and careers and have continued to achieve more important successes as adults, helping to make their communities a better place for all. We are extremely proud of them and look forward to seeing others join their ranks." He also thanked the New Rochelle Board of Education and Administration for supporting the program and the notion that, "one size doesn't fit all."



"These reports are among the most uplifting stories that I can remember since I have been here," said Board of Education President David Lacher, who acknowledged that his involvement in the schools predates the school's existence by one year. "It's a wonderful tribute to these individuals...they did it themselves. Every one of them had the right motivation to succeed."