

'Villagers' Do Their Part
By BILL ENDSLEY
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Chicago Joint Territory offers a College and Career Fair for junior high and high school students.

If it takes a village to raise a child, then the same villagers can also shepherd a young adult into the working world. Families and communities need to guide a student into a career that is both fulfilling for that individual and beneficial for society.

With this in mind, the Chicago junior high and high school divisions, along with the Culture Department, offered for the first time a College and Career Fair for students grades 7–12 at the Chicago Culture Center today.

Representatives from local colleges and universities, as well as experienced professionals covering nearly 30 different career options, were represented at the various booths. They answered questions about careers in such varied fields as graphic design, health care and geothermal engineering.

Shirley Jahad, a reporter for the local WBEZ radio station, offered students a chance to hear how they would sound as radio broadcasters. “These kids were so dynamic and eager to learn,” she said. “This fair provided these kids with vital information they need to become successful in life — information they often can’t get anywhere else.”

Seminars stressed the importance of starting early. Grade point averages can’t be brought up significantly during the final year of school and financial planning has to start before applications for admission are mailed.

Dyan Stankiewicz, who helped plan the event, hopes the event can be offered again — and earlier in the school year. “This is exactly the kind of activity we need to be having,” she said, “if we are really serious about promoting education and helping young people.”

Harold Black, a student division member, was glad to offer young people a positive view of the future. “We have to provide young people with positive role models,” Mr. Black said. “They don’t have to resort to illegal activity to get ahead in life.” The student division provided a list of the top 16 universities in the country, their tuition costs, acceptance rates, student-to-teacher ratios and average costs of room and board.

The organizers agreed that the path to a meaningful life can be treacherous and young people need everyone’s support. “These kids can better society just by being themselves,” Shirley Jahad said. “We need to support and encourage that. Offering practical, useful information in a setting like this with the goals of the SGI — it just seems like a perfect fit.”

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