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Teens get out of the classroom, into offices

SCV School & Business Alliance hosts job shadow program for high school students

On a weekday typical morning, Kimberly Stephenson would be sitting in her AP government or humanities class.

But this Wednesday, the 17-year-old sat side-by-side a local attorney in an Owen, Patterson & Owen law office.

“I got to listen to negotiations,” said Stephenson, a senior at Canyon High School. “She actually settled two cases while I was there.”

It was an insightful experience for the teen, who has always dreamed of being a lawyer. She was one of 120 local high school students who participated in the 13th annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day, a program run by the Santa Clarita Valley School & Business Alliance.

“We work with educators and businesses to ensure curriculum is preparing students for careers of today and tomorrow,” said Executive Director Adriana Estrada.

Forty companies and organizations participated, representing a range of industries such as marketing, cosmetology, engineering, health care, journalism, civil service, and more.

Engineering technician Hugo Borja sat with his shadow, Hart High School student Tim Jenkins, during a luncheon where all the participants converged at the Santa Clarita Sports Complex.

“I got to see a lot of different aspects of the water agency (like) what they do to test it to make sure it’s drinkable,” Jenkins said. “I got to visit some sites like the pump and booster station.”

Jenkins said he enjoyed being out in the field.

“I think overall he got a good sense of what the whole engineering aspect is,” said Borja, who works for the Santa Clarita Water Division of Castaic Lake Water Agency.

Jenkins also gained some connections in the field – people he could call if he has questions.

“I learned a lot about the job security in civil engineering, which is of course important in this economy,” he said.