

Semi-annual job fair brings employers directly to students

Career Services event connects students to work opportunities

by Amelia Jacobson

Junior Jenna Stetter attended the first New Trier student job fair on Oct. 16 to find her first job. Two days later, she was hired.

Stetter has already worked a couple of shifts and received training at Convito Cafe & Market as a retail clerk.

The job fair was created by Career Services Coordinators Melissa Duffy and Steven Belford, with more than twenty companies attending.

Duffy and Belford are still building Career Services after taking over a year ago, and hope to be able to support students in the development and exploration of careers.

"Part of what we do in career services is help kids find jobs. Not only do we talk about what kids want to do after school as a career, but also right here during school. A lot of students want and need part-time jobs," said Belford.

Senior Florian Vining has had small jobs in the past, and hoped to find an opportunity at the job



Students converse with potential employers in the Student Commons at the job fair on Oct. 16 | Belford

fair. "Trying to find the perfect balance between having a job and actual school work is something I will have to eventually do, so I might as well get experience now. [New Trier] doesn't make [finding a job] easy when they load you with school work, but then again it is all about figuring it out for later in life," said Vining.

Students who currently have jobs, like sophomore Louise Kulp, agreed that at times it is difficult to balance scheduled work hours with homework and studying as well as other responsibilities.

Kulp said, "One of the greater benefits of having a job is the income; it gives me a lot more freedom to

do things with my friends over the weekend, and it makes my parents trust me more."

Many students in search of jobs found the job fair to be a way to find employment opportunities.

"I think the job fair was effective. It was easier for me to find a job rather than going to different places to find one," noted Stetter.

There were numerous positions offered from a variety of industries from restaurants to camp employers.

Many of these companies were willing to take first-time workers.

Meatheads General Manager Scott Bailey said, "There are a lot of people interested in first jobs [or] second jobs. It's a lot of exposure for people who may not know that our

company is hiring. [The job fair] is a really good tool to help people find jobs."

The companies were pleased with the student turnout and the ability to reach a number of prospective employees at one time.

The Noodle Cafe owners, Rob and Ann Garrison, said, "We've met a good fifteen people who have come up and given us their name and numbers. I don't know if it will turn into them working for us, but we are interested in talking to them further."

Stetter was not the only one who received a job because of the fair.

"We've done a follow-up with a lot of the employers and we have heard back that there have been a lot of students already hired, a lot of

people interviewed," said Belford.

Many of the companies have previously employed New Trier students and were happy with the attributes that the student body provided.

Alumnus and Five Seasons Family Sports Club Office Manager, Sheila Johnson said, "I love hiring New Trier kids. 'My best employees over the last ten years have been from New Trier. Just good, smart, hard-working kids.'"

Career services prepared for the initial job fair by searching for employers who would be good fits for the students.

"We picked up the phone and called a lot of the employers around here," said Belford. "We talked to kids in our classes and kids in the hallway. We just asked, 'where are the kind of places you and your friends have jobs?' We found some of the most popular places kids work and we called all of them."

Career Services is looking to make the job fair a semi-annual event, with another planned for the spring to help students find summer jobs. All companies that were invited wanted to be part of the next job fair.

"I would recommend going to a job fair if you are planning to get a job, because it is important to understand which opportunities are near school or near home," said Stetter.

Students lack sexual health clinics

Since closing of Angles, access to contraception is limited

by Hannah Sussman and Eva Roytburg

Angles, a local clinic providing sexual health counseling and services, closed in 2016, leaving North Shore teenagers without nearby alternatives to address their sexual health.

According to NBC news, 16.9 years is the average age at which teens lose their virginity, suggesting that the average student needs access to contraception during their high school years.

With Angles' closure last March, the nearest clinic is now on the north side of Chicago.

Youth Services, a mental health organization based in Northbrook, acquired Angles due to insufficient funding. On their website, they stated that they provide sexual health education classes on Tuesdays and also offer free condoms.

However, when asked directly, the program manager was unsure if these safe sex supplies were actually available. Youth Services is also not a health clinic, so they are unable to prescribe medication, including birth control, to students.

New Trier doesn't offer condoms or other forms of contraceptive devices to students.

Colleen Sheridan, School Nurse of the Winnetka campus, explained, "It's really just when schools have a student-based health center when that's an option. We don't have an overriding physician or hospital that can say we have the authority to write a prescription for birth control or hand out a condom."

Evanston Township High School does have a student-based health center or clinic.

For students to have access to the clinic their parents must give



The Angles facility in Northfield closed down on Mar. 31, 2016 | Angles.org

permission. While some schools require parents to opt-in to programs that may provide contraceptive devices, Evanston has a unique opt-out program.

The opt-out program offers parents the ability to limit any services offered to their children by the clinic. Lynn Gittleman-Chehab, one of the doctors working at ETHS, has never in her 11 years seen a family opt-out of the clinic's services.

Chehab maintained that the clinic was "the best medical care in which I have ever participated." She went on to state that, "the most important aspect of having a school clinic is that you really get young people involved in their health."

Chehab sees the potential for New Trier to have its own student-based health center, affirming that "[the clinic] is fantastic, especially in New Trier. You have a student body that could support this."

Chehab also challenged the perspective that school nurses can't hand out condoms. "[Nurses offices] can hand out condoms, you don't need a medical degree to hand out condoms."

Sheridan, however, maintained that "we do not have prescribing rights here, so I cannot hand out birth contraception or condoms."

Condom distribution within public schools has been controversial.

There have been three court cases that have addressed the issue.

The two most recent ones, Parents United for Better Schools, Inc. v. School District of Philadelphia Board of Education and Curtis v. School Committee of Falmouth, both ruled that schools creating condom distribution programs did not infringe on any familial or religious rights.

There are no laws that address whether a school needs a health center in order to distribute condoms.

Some New Trier students believe that having a nearby clinic or health center would be beneficial.

Senior Anahi Toolabin was surprised that the school does not offer condoms. "If there were a clinic, people would go because it's non-judgemental," she said.

Senior Bennet Blake also assumed that the school had a program to distribute condoms, thinking that students would visit given the lack of a nearby clinic.

Sophomore Margaret Hecht agreed that a clinic would be useful and recalled several of her friends needing to go to drugstores to buy a condom.

While Chehab believed that New Trier could use a clinic, Sheridan said the community didn't feel a need for one. She explained, "I think most of our families are well connected with physicians and have the ability to go to physicians of their choice, so we have not seen it as a need here."

Despite fewer restrictions, VPNs still remain popular

Virtual Private Networks used to bypass school WiFi

by Hope Talbot and Amelia Jacobson

In light of the recent technology restrictions in advisories (as well as classes), students at both campuses have been installing VPNs to ensure personal freedoms on their devices.

A VPN or Virtual Private Network overrides the school's WiFi filters on apps such as Fortnite Mobile, Instagram, and Snapchat. VPNs replace the IP address connected to the device with the outside providers system.

Remote access VPNs use the information typed into the device,

'It's our job to ensure that we as a school are complying by putting systems in place so that students are safe, secure, and unable to access inappropriate material online.'

where it's converted to skip over the screens, and is then formatted back to its original form. Site-to-site VPNs are designed to encrypt the data so that it remains virtually undetectable.

While students who use VPNs claim they view the same content they would outside of school, the firewall technology has posed a very serious debate between students and administration when it comes to exploring the limits of censorship during school hours.

"I used VPNs to play video games and go on Instagram, but

mainly because of Fortnite," said one junior who asked to remain anonymous.

Aside from the convenience of accessing media that would otherwise be blocked, the fact remains that VPNs are still an unreliable.

The junior also added, "I bought the first one that came up on the app store, but I have heard of people getting viruses by downloading them."

While some download the software simply to access their favorite games, the activity of other VPN users raises far greater concern for the school.

"I use VPNs for downloading movies I couldn't get otherwise," stated a sophomore who also wished to remain anonymous. "My parents are programmers, and if you use a sketchy VPN it's probably dangerous, but if you're using an actual [paid] VPN it's fine."

Chief Technology Director, Stephanie Helfand said, "It's our job to ensure that we as a school are complying by putting systems in place so that students are safe, secure, and unable to access inappropriate material online."

Helfand said that every student agrees to not bypass school security filters in the acceptable usage policy they sign at the beginning of freshman year at the iPad orientation, "VPNs have been an issue for a number of years. We really see a full scale of misconduct. However the student assumes legal responsibility for anything done on a VPN as they chose to circumvent the system."

Students who choose to use a VPN often see the real life dangers that VPNs can cause, such as compromised personal information.

"I usually pick a random server online," said senior Peder Albertson, "Some require a premium, but there is a chance they could collect credit card information."