

Toolkit for Success

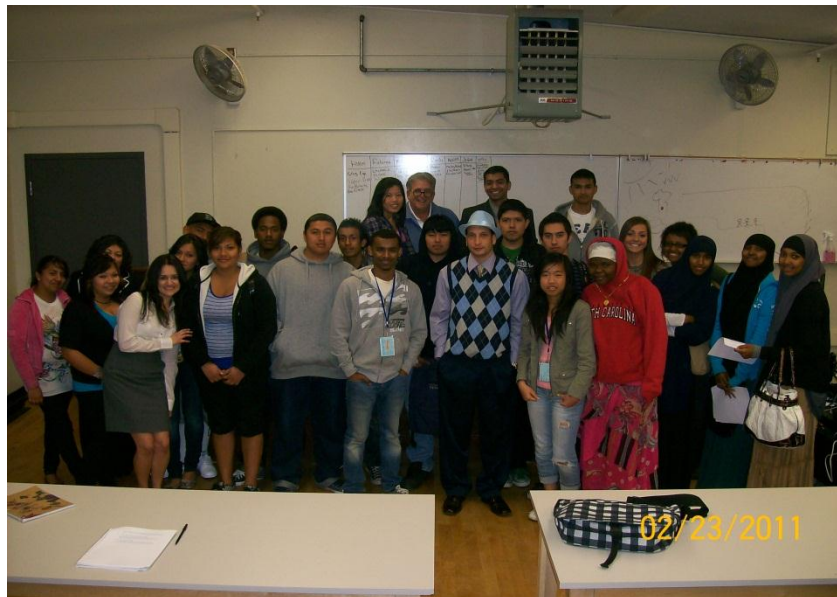
Mr. Sid, a law student at Thomas Jefferson Law School, spoke to Crawford students to discuss the importance of networking. The presentation focused on how networking can have a positive impact in your life and how you have to treat everyone that you encounter in a courteous manner because you never know just whom you may be talking to. He also emphasized the fact that people of power will most likely help you get somewhere if they like you. Later on in the presentation, we discussed the importance of carefully choosing the people you surround yourself with. "Tell me who you hang out with and I'll tell you who you are." This quote has a powerful message alerting that people will judge you for who you associate with.

Another topic that was discussed in-depth was that of how positive thinking can lead to positive choices. Visualizing and believing that you can attain your goals are important factors that can help get you closer to your goals. Finally, we closed out the day on the topic of resumes. We learned the proper components of a good resume and discussed the importance of giving a perspective employer a better understanding of what they can expect from you. Overall, it was a very informative presentation that gave me the confidence to know that I am gaining tools to open plenty of doors for myself in the future.

-Karen Ramirez

Crawford Law Academy

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The Road to Academic Success

Today, Mr. Sid stopped by Crawford High School to discuss the academic path of a potential law

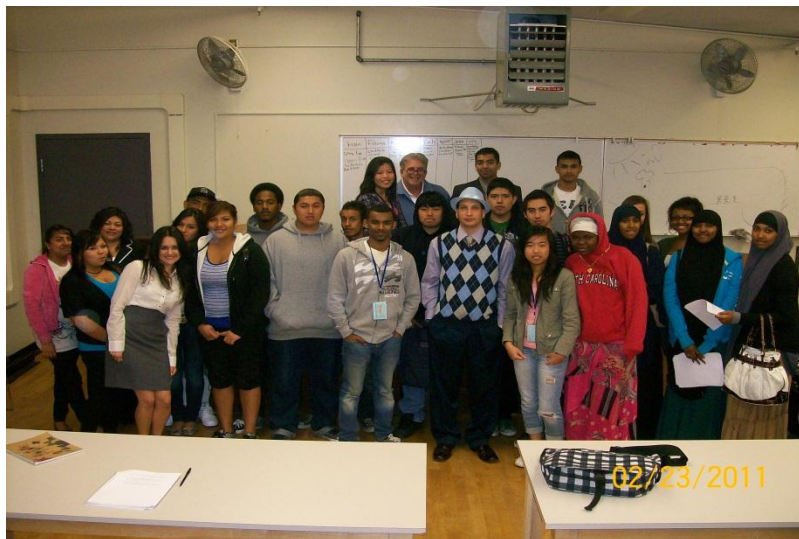
student and how to assess your best career choices. First, we discussed how the road to law school begins in high school. The more academic success you have in high school, the greater the chances are that you get yourself accepted to a more elite university. Mr. Sid told us that once you're in college you have you need good grades to improve your chances of getting into law school. He also told us that although your goals may change, academic success is key to gaining opportunities.

We then delved into forming career decisions and how to choose a career that is best suited for you. Mr. Sid told us that we should never let our surroundings limit our goals. At the end of the day, our success is determined by our commitment and perseverance to the goals we set, not by the limitations others perceive us to have. He ended his presentation by telling us to strive for a career that we find enjoyable and that we can be proficient in.

-By Jaime Salomon Ovando

Crawford Law Academy

11/30/11



Perseverance Makes Perfect

Mr. Alonso Zavalasoto, a law student at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, recently came to speak to the Law Academy at Crawford High School. He encouraged us to keep studying and become someone in life as well as shared his personal experience of succeeding in the face of adversity no matter what the obstacle is. Even though, he had many rocks on his path he found a way to get around them and become

successful. He thanked all the people that helped him along the way because without them he wouldn't be who he is now. He's a great example of how there's no such thing as giving up. There are people that have gone through more than you and they are still successful. People might try and discourage you or even say your goals are nothing but dreams, but if you really want to be someone in life, always try your best and your effort will pay off in the future. Even if your extended family doubts you and says college is not for you and that it's just a waste of money and time, you should persevere and use it as motivation to prove all the doubters wrong. Ultimately you make your own way in the world and hopefully at least your parents are always be there to support you with your decisions in life. Never choose the easy path because it might be the path to failure. In the words of General George Washington, "Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages." I found this quote interesting. The meaning I got out of it is to keep fighting through your obstacles and never give up. Fight with perseverance and spirit. There's never an age to stop your goals.

-By Karen Ramirez

11th Grade

Crawford Law Academy



This is What Makes Me, This is Who I Am

Allyson Evans, a third year law student at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, came to speak to the students of the Crawford Legal Academy today. She shared with us her story about how she was raised in Los Angeles and how she got a degree in political science from UC Santa Cruz. While in college, she decided that she wanted to study law, but decided to gain some valuable experience by working for the state of California prior to applying for law school. After graduation, Ms. Evans' goal is to work for the United Nations to help in the field of International Human Rights.

After sharing her life story and experiences with us, she had us write an I Am Poem. It was challenging because it's hard for everyone to think about who they really are. After we finished writing our poems, a few students shared theirs with the rest of the class. The perspective on how people view themselves was very interesting and enlightening. Shortly after the poem exercise, Ms. Evans had us do another exercise in which we discussed certain personality characteristics and how it affects the type of people we gravitate towards. Both exercises taught me a lot about who I am, who I choose to hang out with, and how these factors can determine my future aspirations.

-By Ratha Chea
11th Grade
Crawford Law Academy
April 27, 2011



Persistence Pays Off

Marty Stratte, a student from Thomas Jefferson School of Law came to Crawford High School to speak with students about setting goals for your future. He shared insight with us about how each of your decisions has to be carefully calculated and how proper planning with short-term goals can lead to greater success with long-term goals. We discussed how short-term goals are manageable tasks that add up to help you reach your long-term aspirations in an efficient manner and about how you have to pick a goal that you are happy with and will stay committed to in the long run. Emphasis was also placed on the importance of taking advantage of opportunities and not letting them pass you by, because you never know if they are going to come back around to you.

Marty's presentation taught me that it is important to make the most of the education you pursue. Often times, after people obtain the education they were seeking, waste their time by not applying themselves. People that are not motivated to take advantage of the doors they've opened by getting an education are pretty much throwing it in the trash. Setting attainable goals for yourself keeps you accountable to yourself and ultimately keeps you moving in a positive direction. Once you have set those goals for yourself, it is important to see them through and not let any doubters derail your objectives. If other people tell you that you can't do something, use it as motivation to prove them wrong.

-By Jose Delgado

11th Grade

Crawford Law Academy



Never Give up, Never Give in

Today law student Jimmy Nguyen came by Crawford High School to share his life story with our Law Academy class. He spoke of the adversity he has overcome and how he turned his whole life around. From a young age, Jimmy lacked parental structure and without guidance, he didn't always make the right decisions. Primarily raised by his grandmother, Jimmy failed to develop a sense of understanding right from wrong. Eventually, Jimmy got mixed up with the wrong crowd and his life gradually got further out of control.

After years of living a reckless lifestyle, Jimmy finally found the strength to straighten out his life following the tragic death of his grandmother. Devastated by her passing, Jimmy made a conscious decision to take back control of his life. She had always been the apple of his eye and knew that what he had been doing was not the path that his grandmother wanted for him. He started by going back to school

to get his GED and made a conscious effort to surround himself with positive people. He then parlayed that success by becoming a top student in the field of physiology at his university.

After college, Jimmy decided to go to law school and is currently enrolled at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Jimmy showed us that you can bounce back from anything. No matter how difficult your life is, you are the greatest factor in determining your own happiness and success. Anyone is capable of doing anything they set their mind to as long as they are determined. Time goes forward in life, never backwards, so should people. Always look ahead of yourself, plan your goal, and accomplish it. Never give up.

–By Angela Nguyen
Crawford Law Academy
10/19/11

