



News from LABORATORY ALLIANCE of Central New York, LLC



Syracuse City School District P-TECH Program

P-TECH Tenth Graders Visit the Laboratory for a Chemical Hazard Communication Hands-On Learning Experience

By Mark Jordan, Ed.D., Education Coordinator

Laboratory Alliance employees at the Operations Center hosted 17 tenth grade students from the Syracuse City School District's P-TECH Clinical Laboratory Technology program on Dec. 12 for their first mentoring event of the 2017-18 school year. This event provided students with a unique hands-on opportunity to develop their skills in laboratory safety and apply their classroom learning to a real-world scenario.

The mentoring event consisted of four main parts. For the first part, students, under the supervision of Laboratory Alliance's career coaches, autonomously circulated throughout specially designated areas of the lab locating and identifying key safety and personal protective equipment. During this process, students became more critically oriented to our laboratory environment and potentially their future place of employment!

Once students completed the scavenger hunt of safety equipment, they met in small groups with our career coaches to review their findings and learn about the significance of chemical hazard communication using Safety Data Sheets (SDSs). The students clearly demonstrated their prior knowledge of SDSs and the information contained within them, a great testament of the effective instruction provided by their instructor, Janet Clark of the Syracuse City School District. Building upon the students' prior knowledge, we provided them with a hypothetical task involving a chemical hazard. The students conducted a thorough assessment of the hazards associated with this task using the relevant SDSs and described how to safely perform the task.

The culmination of this mentoring event was the moment we had the students spill the pseudo-hazardous chemical on the workbenches and, under the direction and guidance of Laboratory Alliance's career coaches, appropriately managed the spill using chemical spill kits. It is not often students are actually asked to spill something in the lab so this was something they definitely enjoyed! More importantly, we expect they will long remember this valuable hands-on experience.

This mentoring event was strategic in targeting key laboratory skills in safety and providing an opportunity for the students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. I would like to thank all of the career coaches for their participation and flawless execution of this event. The career coaches present at this event included Michael Adetu, Mark Jordan, Daria Lebduska, Heidi Ricci, Rita Romano and Jennifer Walczyk.

