

Students ask questions during speed-rounds

BY KIRK DOUGAL

Times Bulletin Editor

kdougal@timesbulletin.com

Adults sat with the students around tables in the library, the rise and fall of voices filling the room. The media resources person behind the counter listened and did not say "Shhh!" once.

It was the "8-Minute Vocation Acceleration Experience" at Parkway High School on Friday afternoon and business people from all walks of life volunteered their time to go to the school and talk with the students about their careers. The event was sponsored by the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and utilized the speed-dating format where groups of one to three students sat with the local professionals for eight-minute sessions before they moved to the next table.

"A normal job fair is crowded and students group up and tend to be shy about asking questions and learning," said Twyla Hayes, creator of the event and owner of Brand It Design. "This will give them personal attention and provide an environment conducive to learning and networking."

Careers spanning 125 representatives in eleven different fields were available for the students to choose. These included arts, agriculture/wildlife/construction trades, business/financial, communication, education, government, health, protective services, personal care services, self-improvement, and technical vocations.

Though not designed help students choose a career with no previous interest, the format did



Kirk Dougal/Times Bulletin

Parkway students talk with professionals from the communication field in the library during the "8-Minute Vocation Acceleration Experience on Friday. Students had the opportunity to ask questions of 125 professionals in 11 different fields about their careers.

allow them to ask specific questions to help them better understand what the career would entail. Some examples included: "What is your typical day?" and "What do you like/dislike the most about your job?" Others wanted to know if the professionals would choose the same career

again if they had to start all over.

"This is a learning experience for our students," said Mickey McConahay, Parkway guidance counselor. "They can use the time as a job interview or just to gather information and learn what careers are available."