

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Students Learn, Work While in High School

What are Torrance schools doing to give high school students practical experience in the workaday world while they are enrolled in high school?

This question was answered Monday at a meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance (ECT) by Delmar Smith, work experience coordinator for the Torrance Unified School District.

Smith, who works with the Torrance office of the California State Employment Service and local merchants in procuring part-time jobs for students, described the school district's work experience education program.

BEGUN by Torrance schools 11 years ago, the work experience program includes three facets, Smith said. They include distributive education, general work experience and exploratory work experience. Distributive education prepares juniors and seniors through salesmanship and merchandising classes and part-time jobs for positions connected with bringing products and services from the producer to the consumer.

Students enrolled in the general work experience program, Smith stated, hold down after-school jobs in fields connected with their business, science, or industrial arts studies.

Rounding out the scope of the exploratory work experience program. Under this program, students hold down job stations in school offices and classroom laboratories to gain experience ranging from handling office machinery to observing teaching techniques.

JOBS HELD by Torrance students run the gamut. They work as counter girls, garage attendants, pet shop helpers, stock clerks, switchboard operators, and teachers aids—and the jobs usually tie in with the course of study.

How many hours a day a student works depends on the program in which he is enrolled. A distributive work experience student attends four classes each morning and may work up to five hours a day after school. Students under 18 are limited to a maximum of 33 hours per week. Students receive grades for the work they perform during the two periods of the school day which they spend at their job.

In addition to the three major work experience programs, the high schools also participate in the Neighborhood Youth Corps, a federal-financed program which provides in-school jobs for students in need of financial assistance. NYC students work up to 15 hours a week and earn \$1.27 per hour before and after the regular school day.

Lomita Gets More Hours For Library

To meet growing community needs, the Lomita Library will increase its service to the public five additional hours a week, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 14, according to County Librarian William S. Geller.

"This expanded schedule is being accomplished with no increase in personnel or cost of library operation," he said. With the new hours in effect, the Lomita Library, 24648 Narbonne Ave., Lomita, will be open from noon to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"Now that the library will function through the dinner hour, it will be a convenience to people who are unable to use it at other times. In addition, researchers can now continue their work uninterrupted at this time of day," Geller added.

IN COOPERATION with the California Vocational Rehabilitation Department, work experience is also offered to educable mentally retarded and educable handicapped students in the sophomore, junior, and senior years. These students earn from 50 to 75 cents an hour according to experience.

"Students are not the only ones who benefit from the program," Smith said. "The school, the employer, and the community also benefit."

The schools reap the rewards of relating academic training to job requirements using community facilities and resources for training purposes, increasing the ability to hold students in school, and helping to develop good school-community relations, Smith said.

Hawthorne Police Hold Gardena Man

A 19-year-old Gardena youth arrested by Torrance police on suspicion of possession of dangerous drugs has been released to the Hawthorne Police Department.

Jerry Carl Garcia, 803 W. 137th St., was arrested by Torrance police last Sunday. He reportedly admitted stealing the truck which he was driving at the time of his arrest.

The employer benefits by receiving carefully selected part-time help. "But, most important of all, the community benefits by having a prepared labor force of Torrance police last Sunday. He reportedly admitted stealing the truck which he was driving at the time of his arrest."

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