

**Community Service 2010 Company of the Week: Allianz Life Insurance Company
of North America
Week of March 6, 2011**

Allianz Life and Edison High School eMentors Program

Allianz Life employees mentored 18 Edison High School students through email exchanges between October 6 and December 1, 2010. Students and mentors were matched up, one on one, and exchanged email messages about career and financial literacy skills students will need to be successful in their future. The students chosen to participate were 11th grade students enrolled in the school's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program. AVID is a school curriculum based on rigorous standards that prepares students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility.

Students and mentors exchanged eight emails and met once during the nine week program. Erika Skiba, the students' teacher, introduced a new Guiding Question prompt each week to keep the students on task and to add structure to the weekly email exchanges. A variety of topics were covered including managing time, job search skills, elevator speeches and goal setting. The financial literacy topics discussed included sources of income and time value of money.



Mentors, Carey Gorham (left photo) and Michael Johnson, pose for a photo with their assigned student.

The students enjoyed their time exchanging email messages with the mentors. For many this was their first experience emailing a professional. Following the email exchanges, the students participated in a survey to share their feedback and indicate what they learned through the process. Three-quarters of the students gained an understanding of how their education relates to their future career. The same 75% learned about new career options and 75% stated they now understand the need for career skills. Many students made comments about the specific topics in the free response questions. One student stated, "My mentor taught me how time management is very important." Another said, "It's best to set goals for yourself, which means knowing what you want to do for a career."



Students from Edison High School receive financial literacy advice from Allianz Life employees during a meeting with program mentors.

The mentors also participated in a survey following their experience. The vast majority, 90%, said that their mentee gained a better understanding of the knowledge and skills needed for careers in the professional world. Mentors also shared how much they enjoyed participating; one stated, “This experience made me very grateful for my job and the ability to give back to kids that might not otherwise get the opportunity to see what is possible.” Another commented on the ease of the program, “The email approach worked well for my schedule, and allowed me to provide more thoughtful responses.”



Edison High School students pose with Allianz Life employees who volunteered to mentor students on issues of financial literacy.

In addition to the email exchanges, the students and mentors met at Allianz Life for a celebration and job shadow on November 11, 2010. This half-day event also allowed mentors and students to participate in career round tables where students met with representatives from three of six career areas represented; accounting/finance, legal, human resources, sales, marketing and IS/IT. During these sessions, students found out what each area entails, college education, and responsibilities from within the company. One mentor commented, “The job shadow was great. It was great to see the kids get excited about a corporate job...the nice food and building amenities were a great ‘seller.’”

Congratulations Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America!