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GUERIN PREP OFFERS SYMPOSIUM FOR STUDENTS ON CAREERS

“Have you ever considered any of these careers?”

This was the question posed to freshman and sophomore girls at Guerin Prep High School Dec. 4 as the focus for the first symposium sponsored by the Educating Women for Leadership and Life (EWL) program at the high school.

Mary Planek Toohey, a marketing and sales consultant, and a 1978 graduate of Mother Theodore Guerin High School, one of Guerin Prep’s foundation schools, was the keynote presenter and challenged students to think outside the box.

Additionally, five speakers talked about their careers and the paths that led them to that career.

According to Christina Graf '01, one of the moderators for the program and administrative assistant to the president, “The focus of the day was to help students make informed choices.”

The five women included Alyana Lakis Hill, MTG '07, a family nurse practitioner for Minute Clinic; Jacqueline Kuzman, general manager of the Courtyard by Marriott in Merrillville, Ind.; Julie Fuith Costa MTG '00, speech pathologist at the Inpatient Brain Injury Program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago; Nancy Konrath MTG '81, English and Journalism teacher at Guerin Prep; and Amy Santacaterina, MTG '80, a director in the Chicago Department of Community Development.

The EWL program was established to encourage the young women of Guerin Prep to become leaders and to help them excel in every aspect of their lives. Graf explained, “The goal of the program is to educate Guerin Prep young women as to their endless academic,

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emotional and social possibilities. It is to provide them the opportunity to grow and better themselves, understand their own strengths, explore career paths and aim high.”

The program utilizes Mother Guerin and Guerin Prep alums as both speakers and mentors. “We have already linked approximately 30 sophomore and junior girls with an alumna volunteer mentor based on the students’ career aspirations,” explained Graf. “This is an ongoing program for the sophomore and junior girls.”

In addition to Graf, Mary Stephany, Guerin Prep’s registrar, and Felece King, administrative assistant to the dean of students, serve as moderators for EWL.

A student advisory board has just been established for the program and includes Seniors Caitlin Lamantia, Elizabeth Pina and Megan Romberg; Juniors Sheena Marin and Martha Zinkiewicz; Sophomores Melissa Cyrwus, Paula Kopec, Kwona Lazarz and Amanda Rice; and Freshmen Geena Lardino, Tabitha Roder, Caitlin Ruiz and Chemeko Smith.

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