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Students get early workplace experience

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Jose Madrid didn't understand the business world until he interned at Wells Fargo Bank in Denver.

At 14, he's learned how to label, scan and organize municipal notes and investment information, as well as fulfill other duties as a receptionist in Wells Fargo's Brokerage Services department.



"At first I was very intimidated," Madrid said. "But I've grown to be more confident in the business world. ... I am able to see that this is the key to my success in the future."



Kathleen Lavine | Business Journal
Jose Madrid, a freshman at Arrupe Jesuit High School, has an internship at Wells Fargo's Brokerage Services department. [View Larger](#)

Madrid got his internship through the Corporate Work-Study Program at his school, Arrupe Jesuit High School at 4343 Utica St. in Denver.

The program is similar to others in Denver that offer students professional training to better prepare them for the work force -- preparation that's sorely lacking in the eyes of many employers.

Michael Trujillo, who oversees Madrid's work at Wells Fargo, said he's better than a previous receptionist, who had constant problems at work.

"In our industry, [with the] training and what's expected -- it's hard to find a good fit," Trujillo said.

A growing concern about the high school dropout rate has led businesses to offer training to students.

The Children's Hospital offers internships for students, including those in high school, in its planning and business development department.

Debeth Chacon, executive assistant to the vice president of facilities development, works with three students from Arrupe Jesuit H.S. who work weekly in that department. The students scan, fax and analyze architecture plans, and perform other duties involved with building a hospital.

"Some of these students' grandmas or moms were custodians, and they think that's all they're going to amount to," Chacon said. "We brought them in more so to give them an opportunity to see what working in a hospital is like. ... It opens their mind to more than just hospital work. They can see the ins and outs of architecture."

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