



Some 200 F·E·G·S participants were coached by more than 50 IBM volunteers during the day-long mentoring session as part of IBM's Corporate Service Day.



IBM Volunteers Mark the Company's 100th Anniversary by Giving Back to the Community

IBM Systems & Technology Group - Wall Street Division Offers Advice and Support to Job Seekers in F·E·G·S's I-PREP Program

"I can't think of a better way to spend the last day of our first hundred years than by helping to touch the lives of the many people we met today. It had a huge positive impact on all of us, and I want to say thank you to F·E·G·S for the opportunity and for the good work it does," said Adrian Weinberg, Director of Sales, Wall Street IBM Systems & Technology.



(L-R) Aslam Mirza of IBM reviews the resume of Mary V., an attorney who is seeking employment opportunities in the for-profit sector.

Weinberg led a team of more than 50 IBM employees who recently volunteered to mentor job seekers who are participants in employment assistance programs operated by F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System. The June 15th event was part of *IBM's Corporate Service Day*, marking the company's 100th anniversary.

In thanking the IBM volunteers, Ira Machowsky, F·E·G·S Executive Vice President, spoke about the long and rewarding relationship between IBM and F·E·G·S. "We have worked closely with IBM for almost 30 years in many capacities, on joint programs and with F·E·G·S often acting as a laboratory for testing new educational software and other learning technologies." He commented that so many of the major challenges confronting our society – including the current

recession and unemployment – are best solved when the nonprofit, governmental, and private sectors combine their strengths to find the most effective and cost-efficient solutions.

I-PREP Provides Practice, Good Advice and Builds Confidence

The IBMers, as they call themselves, and F·E·G·S consumers met at an F·E·G·S program called I-PREP (Interview Practice for Emerging Professionals) – a mock interview program originally developed by Columbia Business School students and F·E·G·S.

Amidst an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual respect, some 200 job seekers – ranging in age from the 20s to the mid-60s – met with the IBM volunteers at F·E·G·S's Hudson Square headquarters in Lower Manhattan. In four sessions throughout the day, volunteer mentors shared practical advice with job seekers about everything from their résumés to effective ways to market themselves to prospective employers and then spent time practicing interviewing skills.



(L-R) Meghan Faughnan, IBM volunteer discusses job opportunities with Clarice, who is eager to begin her career in sales.



(L-R) Dennis Dubak, IBM Sales Consultant, gives interview pointers to an I-PREP participant who was recently displaced.

Many of the job seekers were middle-aged professionals who have been affected by the ongoing recession; others were young people who are attempting to enter one of the most difficult job markets of recent years. Still others were career changers like Ellen R., a lawyer in her early 50s who gave up her practice in Seattle, WA to return to her native Queens with the goal of working for a nonprofit environmental organization. The I-PREP session, she said, was "enormously helpful" and offered her "practical advice and new perspectives" on her job search.

Many IBM volunteers commented that they found the day to be "an enriching experience". Ryan Vogt said that volunteering for I-PREP gave him a much deeper appreciation of "how tough it is out there" in today's job

market. Another IBM volunteer, Genevieve Malone, observed, "Looking for a job **is** a job," and said she was "impressed that they all remain so hopeful," while Frank D'Angelo noted, "It was extremely rewarding to be able to help a range of people, both young and older."



(L-R) Richard Rommel, Systems Sales Manager, IBM; Ira Machowsky, Executive Vice President, F·E·G·S; Karen Zuckerman, Associate Vice President, Student Internship and Volunteer Programs, F·E·G·S; Esther Ann Asch, Vice President, Community and Foundation Relations, F·E·G·S; Adrian Weinberg, Director of Sales, Wall Street IBM Systems & Technology; and Frank D'Angelo, Systems Sales Manager, IBM.

Ask the Experts

If you would like to know more about I-PREP or other volunteer opportunities at F·E·G·S, contact:

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I-PREP – An Innovative Mentoring Program

I-PREP began about 11 years ago when David Rosenberg, then an MBA student at Columbia Business School, approached F·E·G·S with a concept for a new volunteer program: 90-minute sessions in which volunteers meet with job seekers in F·E·G·S employment and youth education programs, conduct mock interviews, review resumes, and offer feedback to prepare participants for job interviews.

Rosenberg, now Vice President for Insights and Digital Media at Teach for America, observed, "As students, we received a lot of expert coaching about how best to present ourselves as we began the process of interviewing for jobs. I wanted to share that knowledge with people who did not have easy access to those experts."

"The goal of I-PREP is to make the F·E·G·S clients comfortable with the interview process and more confident in their presentations," said Karen Zuckerman, F·E·G·S Associate Vice President for Student Internship and Volunteer Programs, who noted that several thousand I-PREP volunteers have mentored an estimated 10,000 job seekers over the past decade. ■