

# Living

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## Sophomore shadowing

Students spend a day in the workplace as part of Groundhog's Day event

By URSULA MOORE

Commack 16-year-olds Francesca Mileo and Arielle Hirsch learned firsthand what it takes to be a lawyer after spending one day last year job-shadowing at Sarisohn Law Partners.

The enlightening opportunity would never have presented itself had Francesca and Arielle not been part of "Teens on the Job Shadow Day," which gives high school sophomores a chance to experience the workforce.

"Steven Sarisohn, a lawyer, took us to the courts in Islip and Nassau. We were able to see the adoption finalization of two kids," Francesca said. "The courtroom was decorated with balloons. The one in Nassau involved plea bargaining a speeding ticket. It was an awesome experience. We even got pizza at the end of the day."

On Monday, February 2, more than 90 Commack High School 10th-graders will participate in the program, according to Commack H.S. Career and Internship teacher Diane Nelson. "It's a great program," Ms. Nelson said. "It is a great learning experience."

Arielle couldn't have agreed more. "The shadow day was very informative," she said. "Every aspect of the law is interesting to me. I definitely want to go into criminal law when I become a lawyer."

Eric Kwon, 17, of Commack, who loves numbers and always had an interest in business, shadowed at People's Alliance Federal Credit Union in Hauppauge. "I learned how to open and close accounts," he said. "The best part was learning how to make a credit card. I always wondered how they did it."

Eagerness and extreme interest paid off for Francesca, as she was hired to work part-time for Sarisohn's Commack office. "They loved my enthusiasm. I started working there in July as a clerk," she said. "I work three days a week. I am so happy there, I love it."

Jean Cohen, the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island's executive director, said "most students are delighted to shadow for a day. They are excited to be in the workplace."

Last year, over 550 Long Island employers hosted 1,100 10th-grade students in the special one-day shadowing event. "We work with 40 schools, both



**INTRO TO EMPLOYERS:** Commack High School students Francesca Mileo (above), with boss Steven Sarisohn, Arielle Hirsch (left) and Eric Kwon (right) each gained invaluable experience participating in last year's Teens on the Job Shadow Day. This year, more than 90 other Commack sophomores will take part in the annual Groundhog's Day event, which pairs students up with jobs they one day might like to pursue. Ms. Mileo was hired by Sarisohn's Commack office to work part-time after her shadow day.



public and private," Ms. Cohen said.

The event is purposely held on Groundhog's Day every year. "It's based on the groundhog seeing its shadow," Ms. Cohen said. "That's why the kids job shadow on that particular day."

Each aspiring to attend college, the three Commack High School students are ready to academically conquer the world so one day they can prosper

in the career of their choice. "I would like to go to Duke University or the University of Virginia," said Francesca. "I want to go to Boston University," said Arielle. "I would like to go to college in Boston, too," said Eric.

For more information about *Teens on the Job Shadow Day*, call (631) 761-7800 or visit [www.mentorkids.org](http://www.mentorkids.org).