

## Transforming student lives

"I was like a kid in the candy store," said Nick Viriyasiri, a St. Charles Community College student, about his job shadowing experience on Feb. 15, 2016, with Rick Gibson, senior flavor chemist at Beck Flavors. "I wanted to open and smell everything."



Nick Viriyasiri,  
Future Flavor Chemist



*"...seeing how  
things click and  
relate to school  
was awesome!"*

Nick, who is pursuing a chemistry degree and also has an interest in the food industry, was admittedly a little intimidated with the idea of speaking to someone who had been "in the industry" for more than four decades. No need to worry, though, because Rick turned out to be one of the most approachable people he had ever met.

Nick was familiar with flavor chemistry but didn't know exactly what kind of chemistry they performed every day,

and what kind of schooling was required. He and Rick spent a couple of hours in Rick's office, giving Nick a chance to ask questions and Rick a chance to share his passion. Nick said, "All in all, my questions were answered and [it] cemented my career choice."

In addition, he got to see their Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) in action, something he was familiar with because of his chemistry lab course. He said, "...seeing how things click

and relate to school was awesome!"

Nick had the opportunity to meet other "friendly and helpful" employees that day who were impressed with his taking early steps in finding out about his career interest. "Overall, it was a greatly helpful and informative experience and wouldn't have been possible without the help of Career Services at SCC and Career Explorations Alliance!"



*"The best preparation for today's job market is a mix of classroom learning that can be applied in real-world experiences, or a combination of academic experience and practical experience."*  
– Washington Post, January 2015

# The real world

Having unrealistic expectations is one of the biggest hurdles facing young people today.

Students are better prepared to make good career and life choices when they experience what's out there while still in school. Here's what a few of the students have to say:

- ✦ "This experience has given me a look into something that otherwise I would be blind to." – **Ethan**, Lincoln/Troy School District
- ✦ "He was polite and the environment was a friendly one. They explained everything well and gave me a new view of the profession. I am very grateful for the opportunity." – **Erinn**, Wentzville School District
- ✦ "This experience was unforgettable!" – **Anna**, Francis Howell School District

## Our professionals enjoyed it too:

- ✦ "The whole process went very well and the student impressed us so much that we offered him a job."  
– **Aaron**, St. Peters Professional
- ✦ "Thanks for this wonderful program for students, teachers and professionals. I think this experience benefited all of us and is a great asset for our educational and professional community!"  
– **Trish**, St. Charles Professional

4.75  
OUT OF 5.0



AVERAGE RATING FOR PARTICIPANT ENJOYMENT

1,038  
students impacted

233  
professionals  
registered



Bill Hennessy, mayor of O'Fallon, Mo., with Francis Howell senior, Jacob Dehesa, during a job shadowing experience on March 29, 2016.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS

Francis Howell School District; Fort Zumwalt School District; Lincoln/Troy School District; Orchard Farm School District; St. Charles Community College; St. Charles (City of) School District; Wentzville School District

"It was great to show Jacob what it's like to work for our residents. In O'Fallon, we're fortunate to have an active group of young adults, and we look for every opportunity to involve them in city government and leadership."

– **Bill Hennessy**

The Career Explorations Alliance (CEA) program, launched on Jan. 1, 2016, is bringing together professionals, educators and students. We could use your support. Find out how you can lend a hand by contacting Dawn Thornton, program manager, at 636-922-8373/dthornton@stchas.edu or Laura Knight, program coordinator, at 636-922-8249/lknight@stchas.edu.



CareerExplorationsAlliance



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