



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

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XAVIER STUDENTS USE PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT TO TEACH YOUNG MINDS ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LIFE LESSONS AT CROCKER PREP

New Orleans LA – “Who can explain how supply and demand works?” asked Randy Caldwell to a classroom full of fourth graders at Lawrence D. Crocker College Prep in uptown New Orleans. The majority of the students raised their hands with excitement hoping Caldwell would call on them.

Caldwell, a sophomore majoring in finance, was one of 23 Xavier University of Louisiana students who recently participated in a service learning project where they devoted four hours of their time teaching third through eighth graders about financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

The project is a part of their principles of management course taught by Dr. Richard Peters, assistant professor of management in the division of business. For the past three years, Peters has worked with Xavier’s Center for Student Leadership and the non-profit Junior Achievement of Greater New Orleans, Inc. to provide this opportunity for Xavier students to put management principals into practice while importantly contributing to the civic education of children in the community.

“What’s great about this project is that it allows the students to put into practice the four major steps that managers and leaders do: which is plan, organize, motivate leadership and evaluate,” said Peters. “I try to make these management functions more about life skills than just business skills.”

Caldwell and his classmates prepped weeks in advance for the teaching task. Junior Achievement provided the curriculum and supporting materials.

“I tried to make the lesson interesting for them,” said Caldwell. “I like being a role model for the kids. This experience was just as rewarding for me as it was for them.”

Jorran Hodges, a sophomore majoring in finance who shared teaching duties with Caldwell, concurred, saying, “It’s rare to see young black men teaching, but it’s definitely something needed and I was happy to be a part of giving back.”

One of the students whose first name is ‘Maya’ said it was fun and informative having Caldwell and Hodges teach her class. “I had a great time today,” she said. “We did activities that would help us with our learning.”

Isaac Arce, a junior majoring in accounting and Brittany Jacob, a first year pharmacy student tag teamed a classroom of third graders two doors down the hall from Caldwell and Hodges.

“They did ask some very advance questions which took me by surprise,” said Arce. “They asked about interest rates and savings accounts and I’m like ‘whoa, third graders, okay, awesome’.”

“I hope that they realize it’s going to be important one day if they go to college to give back and communicate and interact with younger kids so that way they impact their lives too, just like we hopefully did theirs,” said Jacob.

Junior Achievement Program Manager Kelly Allison said her organization and Xavier students are a great match when it comes to fulfilling its mission. “Xavier students are very effective and Junior Achievement is that connection between students and what they are learning in the classrooms and how that can be applied in real life,” she said.

Peters said he is proud of his students and will continue nurturing his relationship with Junior Achievement; mainly because of the positive impact it is having on the community and his students.

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