



SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Sam Boni, who lives at St. John's Meadows in Brighton, brings smiles to visiting Brighton High School sophomores on Wednesday. They are, from left, Greg Palis, 16, Celeste Pellegrino, 16, and Garrett Rauck, 15.

The young gather career ideas from some wise elders

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BRIGHTON — Celeste Pellegrino hurried over to Joyce Bogdanski.

"I heard you play Cole Porter music!" Celeste, 16, said with wide eyes.

The two music fans — one, a Brighton High School sophomore, the other, an elder at St. John's Meadows — met Wednesday at a mentoring program that focused on careers and life choices.

The program brought together about 30 Brighton students with 13 elders who worked in a variety of professions, including medicine, engineering, accounting and advertising.

Bogdanski worked as a piano teacher for several decades.

"I'm older," she said, "but I still play a lot."

The kids and the elders were all smiles as they shared stories and asked one another questions.

Chiamaka Ikpeze, 15, said she talked with an elder about nursing and pediatrics.

"I love talking to older people..." she said. "They're just so experienced in so many ways."

Garrett Rauck, 15, said the program was useful for narrowing down what he wants to do with his career.

"I thought it was a good experience," he said, "'cause I'm still not sure what I want to do" for a job.

The program was organized in part by students at Nazareth College, who put the event together as

part of a class on aging.

Marcia O'Brien, transition coordinator at the high school, said she would like to see the program continue after this year.

Some students, she said, have already approached her about working with the elders later on.

The program — held at the Meadows' Briarwood building — was fun for the elders, as well.

Art Trimble, who spoke with the students about photography, said he got involved in the event because he felt he had something to share.

"Maybe I know something that can be helpful to someone as they start their career." □

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