



Rotary Student Program

Submitted by Jackie Huie, DGN, Rotary Student Program Coordinator
and Margie Haas, PDG, District Youth Services Coordinator

The Rotary Student Program was off to a BIG START in 2024 with several activities in the new year, including One-on-One Career Mentoring, a Virtual Dream Career Event, SPARK and an Interact Club Leadership Series.

Background on the Rotary Student Program

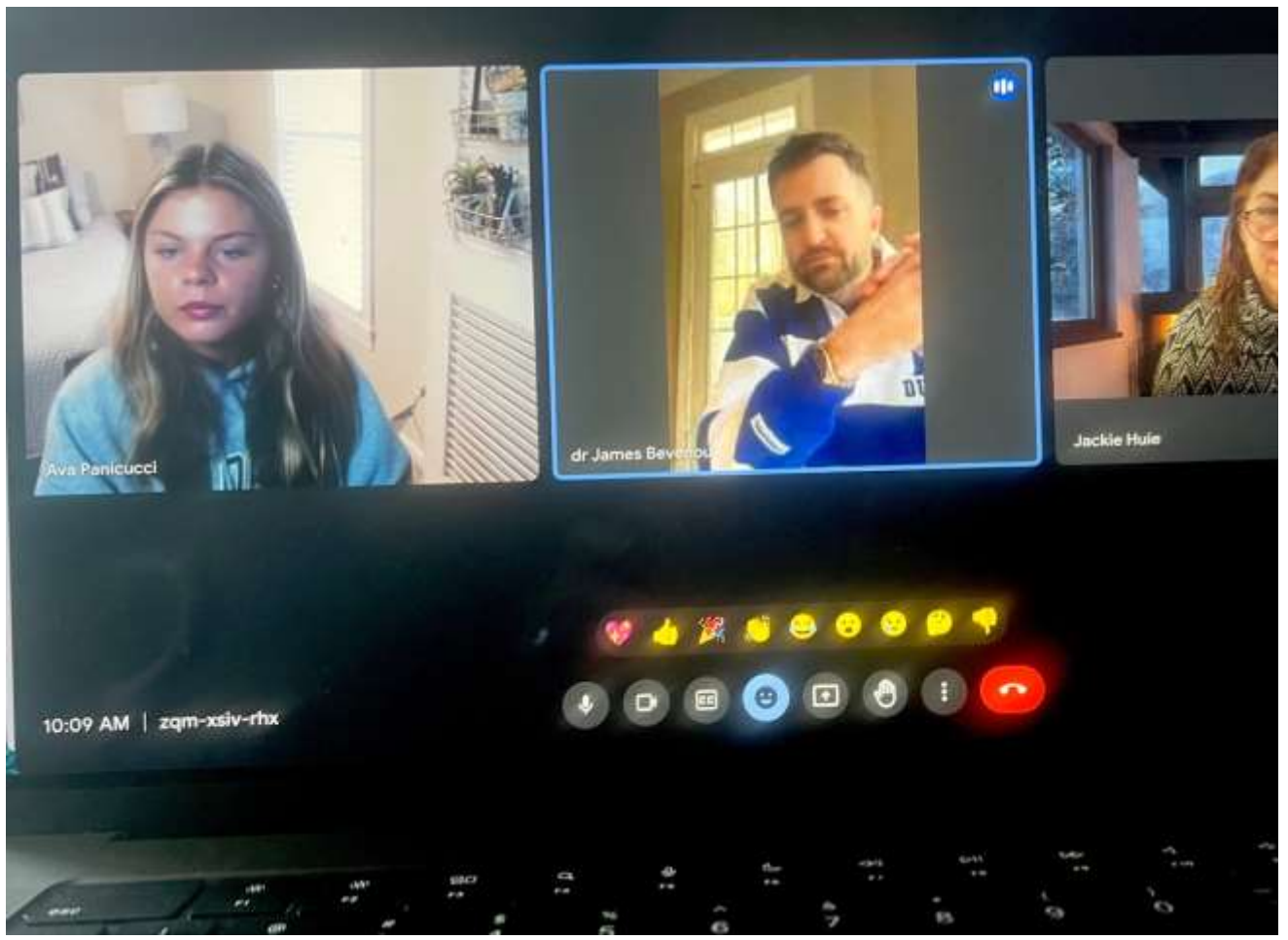
Since 1905, the 1.4 million member Rotary organization has worked toward the common goal of making the world a better place. In 2007, Southwest Michigan Rotarians decided to leverage the network of Rotary to provide a relevant service to every community by connecting young people with professionals in dream careers. What started as one-on-one in person meetings between Rotarians, Students and Professionals now has in-person and virtual components. The goal is to give every young person the opportunity to connect with a mentor in their Dream Career. To fulfill that goal, every Rotary Club in the world is invited to host this program collaborating with local high schools. Moving forward, the Rotary Student Program will be seeking Rotarians interested in being on the District 6360 Committee. Reach out to Jackie Huie for interest at jhuie@johnsonrauhoff.com

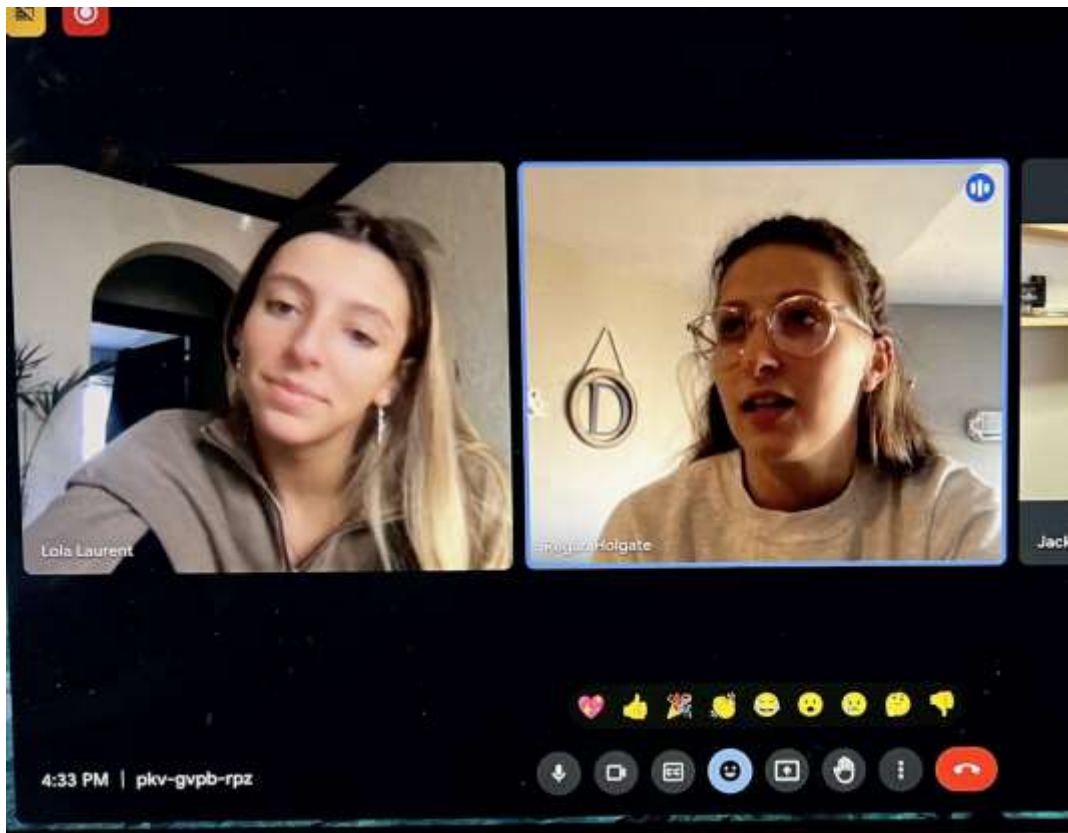
Through the Rotary Student Program, high school students are matched with professionals in Dream Careers. This past month, four St. Joseph High School students completed the program by meeting with a mentor and sharing their experience at a Rotary Meeting. Participants included:

- SJHS Sophomore, Addison Covert, with a Dream of becoming an Anesthesiologist and meeting with Dr. Dudley, Head of Anesthesiology at Corewell Health, Lakeland, SJBH Rotary Host Rick Villa
- SJHS Senior, Kaiden Tevis, with the Dream of becoming a Mechanical Engineer and meeting with Whirlpool Engineer, Mandy McIver, SJBH Rotary Host Rick Villa
- SJHS Junior, Ava Panicucci, with the Dream of going into Medicine and meeting with Duke Fellow at Duke University Healthcare, Dr. James Bevenour, SJBH Rotary Host Jackie Huie
- SJHS Senior, Lola Laurent, with a Dream of becoming a Sports Reporter and meeting with NHL Sports Reporters Maura Carey and Regan Holgate, SJBH Rotary Host Jackie Huie









SPARK

Through the month of February, we ran SPARK, which brings professionals to schools to share their journey, struggles and rise to success. Under the Rotary Student Program umbrella, SPARK is the brainchild of 2010 Rotary Student Program participant Brittney Gathing, who attended Benton Harbor High School, graduated from University of Michigan and returned home to be a teacher at her alma mater and join the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor. Working along with Britney is fellow Rotarian Afiya Latham, Owner of Express Employment Services.

SPARK Series at BHHS

- February 5, "Finding Your Path" How to discover your hidden talents and dreams, with Rotarian Afiya Latham
- February 12, "Rising from the Bottom" Successful professionals sharing how they worked their way up from the bottom to the top, with Rotarian Afiya Latham and her panelists
- February 26, "Never Give Up" The story of how a Bohemian-speaking young person arrived in the U.S., became an athlete and found a talent in Accounting, with JohnsonRauhoff Accounting Director Crispin Ward





In March, the Rotary Student Committee will work alongside District Interact Club Chair, Cindy Igoe, to plan a school-wide Leadership Series hosted by the Interact Club of St. Joseph High School. Every Friday morning in March, professionals will meet with students to share their points of views on topics important to student leaders. The Mentoring Director for the Interact Club, Eashaan Ale, will be opening the meetings and introducing the professionals.

Leadership Series at SJHS

March 1: "Leadership," Tips on how to become an effective leader, with Past Whirlpool Global Director & JohnsonRauhoff President, Rotarian Mike Huie

March 8: "Public Speaking," Tips on how to become an effective public speaker, with Former State Rep & Senator, John Proos

March 15: "Resume Writing," How to self-promote, creating a great and effective resume, with Whirlpool Senior Director, Joe Igoe

March 22: "Leading a Meeting," Tips on how to run an effective meeting and make the most out of every meeting you're in, with Rotarian Diana Gramenos Dowd

