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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Public School Students Get Hands-On with the field of Logistics
Work-based learning experience provides Englewood high school students experience in the field of logistics and exposure to college life.

CHICAGO (April 5, 2006) – Students from Paul Robeson High School attended the first-ever “logistics camp” this week as part of a career readiness program initiated by the Chicago Public Schools’ Education to Careers department.

The camp was made possible through collaboration with Jewel-Osco, Northern Illinois University’s College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, and the Illinois Office of Educational Services.

During the two-day camp held at NIU’s DeKalb campus, 18 students took part in hands-on activities with supply chain management and general logistics concepts. The students also attended a college lecture on logistics, taking notes and participating in the class.

“The students showed a lot of curiosity about engineering and logistics and participated enthusiastically in active learning exercises that showed them what engineering is all about. I enjoyed the visit, and would like to have a group come again,” said Dr. Richard Marcellus, Associate Professor in NIU’s Department of Industrial Engineering.

Additionally, the students visited Jewel-Osco’s Distribution Center in Melrose Park to understand some of the real-life applications of logistics. This visit coincides with a class case study on Jewel-Foods, and students were able to see their class assignment in action.

“This was a great opportunity for our students to see their projects in real-world settings,” said Vinay Mullick, the logistics teacher at Paul Robeson High School. “The students were so excited to see what career and education options they have as a result of this project.”

Mullick initiated this project as a way to help students gain real-world insight into their studies and to gain exposure to college life. To help fund this trip, he wrote grants and received generous donations from the Illinois Office of Educational Services and NIU’s College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

“Transportation, Distribution and Logistics is one of the fastest growing industries in Illinois. Robeson High School is to be commended for exposing their students to this exciting career field,” said Dr. Frances Beauman, Project Coordinator at the Illinois Office of Educational Services in Springfield, Illinois.

Chicago Public Schools is one of the first school systems in the country to recognize the need to make students and parents aware of the growing number of jobs in Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL). Herb Shields, an industry consultant who helped CPS develop its program, said, “As the number of manufacturing jobs shrink in the Chicago area and across Illinois, the number of jobs in TDL continues to rise. TDL is one of the critical skill shortage areas recognized by the state. Chicago is one of the transportation hubs for global commerce and should continue to offer exciting career opportunities for students with training in transportation, distribution, and logistics.”

The logistics course is part of a three-year program in transportation, distribution, and logistics. By completing this course, students will have gained enough knowledge to either begin working in the logistics field, or begin study in the field.

Paul Robeson High School is located in the Englewood area of Chicago’s South Side. About 30% of students from Paul Robeson High School will go on to higher education.

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