



# INTERACTIONS



A newsletter from the Academy of Communications and Technology  
Charter School for supporters of ACT!

Fall 2003

## Mission

ACT's mission is to provide a college-preparatory education to historically underserved urban youth, preparing them to take their place in society as competent, confident, creative, and compassionate citizens of the world.

## Vision

We envision a society in which all children, regardless of their neighborhood, race, parents' income or educational level, are afforded equitable educational opportunities.

**Beyond the Classroom...** ACT's field experience and internship programs bring relevance to classroom instruction.

At ACT, every attempt is made to highlight the connection between classroom learning and skills required in the professional workplace. An important piece of this emphasis is our field experience and internship programs.

Our field experience program begins in 9th grade and takes place on Wednesday afternoons. Students participate in a 13-week career development workshop where they learn skills such as resume writing and interviewing. Upon completing the workshop, students must produce a career development portfolio. Then students are invited to ACT's career exposition. At the expo, businesses and organizations interview students and vice versa. This match-making results in employers committing to host students for a 13-week field experience.

In 10th grade, students participate in a 4-week, formal debriefing with Ms. Rhonda Kelley, ACT's Field Experience Coordinator. Students discuss their experiences—positive and negative, what they learned,

problems they encountered and how they dealt with them. These sophomores then return to their field experience hosts, this time for 26 weeks.

In 11th grade, students spend their Wednesday afternoons engaged in college exploration. This year allows them to take a step back and focus on college as a bridge to a career.

Finally, 12th graders participate in our internship program. Senior year begins with a 4-week internship-training workshop. Based on the previous three years of experiences, students choose a career of interest and are placed in an appropriate internship setting for ten weeks. Some students return to their earlier field experience sites. Students work a full day, Monday through Thursday, then return to school on Fridays for formal processing and reflection.



Candace Harris, Class of 2001

## ACT's Real World: Candace, Kenya, Juel and Their Hosts

Several field and internship experiences have gone beyond the description in our handbook.

Candace Harris is a founding student of ACT and a member of the first high school graduating class. From the day she walked through our doors, Candace let everyone know she was interested in psychology and law. After a field experience at the law offices of Jones Day, a long-time supporter of ACT, her interest was piqued. She selected law again for her internship, and was placed at Futterman & Howard in the fall of 2001. And so began a prolific relationship.

Candace's site coordinator was attorney Carol Ashley, and she also worked for attorney Bob Howard. "Candace was very enthusiastic about every project we gave her, even the tedious ones. She appreciated being here and we appreciated her good work. So we asked her back," stated Carol.

After receiving her high school diploma, Candace returned to Futterman & Howard  
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