

## How do we get there from here?

Sixth grade students learn about the skills and attitudes that will help them on the road to success during three-day Career Forum



Sixth grade students question a volunteer panel of business professionals about how they achieved success in college and career.

Today, more than ever, children need real heroes to help them build their futures. Poughkeepsie Middle School administrators and teachers collaborated with IBMers Dave Bailey and Mary Lena Bennerman to introduce students to some real heroes from the business world during a three-day career forum held March 4-6 at Poughkeepsie Middle

School. This forum gave students the opportunity to ask a volunteer panel of professionals about the skills and attitudes that helped them achieve success in college and career.

Sixth grade students taught by Mary Atkins, Phyllis Leif and Beatrice McCormick participated in this recent project. The students were well-pre-

pared. Working under the guidance of their classroom teachers, they refined their interviewing skills and developed their own questions. They presented their questions to panelists with a variety of backgrounds, many of which were similar to their own. The three sessions were conducted in a talk-show format and held in the district's media center television studio. Dave Bailey, representing Education Transfer, a non-profit organization dedicated to building business/school partnerships, acted as panel moderator for each career forum session. Phyllis Leif was the mistress of ceremonies. The sessions were video taped by Middle School students under the direction of media teacher Ed Cohen.

As panelists responded to questions, students occasionally glanced in surprise at their teachers. They discovered that many of the answers to their questions echoed the words of their teachers and parents. These answers, however, carried new meaning as they revealed how education and values relate to the workplace.

Some of the questions the students asked are: ■ How did you feel when you first got your job? Were you scared? Were you under pressure? What caused the pressure? ■ Did you ever get promoted, and if so, how did you get promoted? ■ Were there any barriers? If so, how did you overcome them? (Could

*your children be wondering the same questions?)*

The recent program at the Middle School was a team effort. Assistant Principal Diane Hammond was instrumental in bringing together Dave Bailey, Mary Lena Bennerman and teacher Phyllis Leif. The support of Principal Bill Evans and Assistant Principal Marva Clark, the 6th grade north wing team teachers, encore 6th grade team teachers, main office secretarial staff, custodial and cafeteria staff all contributed to the success of the career forum.



Students video taped each of the three sessions held in the television studio at the Middle School.