

## Rotary Career Night at Miramonte Hits 50 Years

By Andrea A. Firth



Carlos Castaneda (KRON), Leslie Brinkley (KGO-TV) and Sal Castaneda (KTVU) discuss careers in communications with Miramonte students Photo Andrea A. Firth

Where to go to college, what to choose as a major, and how to get a job are questions that begin to plague teenagers as they enter high school and escalate in importance as they approach graduation. To get answers to these questions and other career guidance, over 400 students attended the 50th Annual Rotary Career Night at Miramonte High School on Wednesday, March 19th.

“It’s extremely important for our students to make the connection between why they are doing what they are doing now and what this means for them later,” explained Miramonte principal Raul Zamora at the outset of the evening.

Ten panels each consisting of three speakers and a moderator from Rotary shared information about their careers and responded to students questions about their work lives. “I have had the pleasure of working with the members of Orinda Rotary on Rotary Career Night for twenty years,” notes Miramonte High School college and career advisor Barbara Aronson. “Our students have a wonderful opportunity to learn from professionals in a wide range of careers. We attract an amazing group of talented people who love the work they do.”

Architecture, Media and Communications, Healthcare, Performing Arts, and Science

were among the most popular panels with the students. Presentations by City of Orinda Police Chief Bill French and psychologist Rodney Nurse were also a big draw.

In addition to the Rotary organizers and moderators, the program receives significant local support. “Many of the speakers live in the community, and some are parents of Miramonte students,” states Aronson. Panelists from the local area included the City of Orinda Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu and City Manager Janet Keeter, along with local business owner Allen Pennebaker of Orinda Motors, veterinarian Gerald Dzendzel, and Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Laura Delehunt.

“Career Night is helpful for students who are starting to think about a college major,” explains Aronson. “College representative tell us that most students change their mind about a major many times before the junior year in college. Rotary career Night helps our students learn more about a wide range of careers.”