

## **A successful edition of the *Entretiens de l'Excellence* on Saturday 24 March: over 600 people present on the Centrale Nantes campus**

**26 March 2018.** Last Saturday, Centrale Nantes hosted the 4th edition of the *Entretiens de l'Excellence* whose goal is to restore equality of opportunity by giving all young people, whatever their origin, the desire to pursue their dreams and build their ambitions.

Launched in Paris in 2006, the *Entretiens de l'Excellence* has since gained national traction and today covers 18 French cities. This event puts middle and high school students in contact with professionals who have come to share their experience of excellence in their field. It aims to fuel ambitions, particularly for young people who are geographically, culturally or socially isolated from networks that can provide them with relevant information for their future and models of success that can stimulate their motivation.

The Nantes edition has enjoyed steady growth: Centrale Nantes hosted 250 students in 2015, 300 in 2016 and 375 in 2017. This year over 500 middle and high school students from more than 40 institutions in the region were in attendance, accompanied by another hundred people.

Parents were invited to attend a workshop to answer their questions and concerns about their children's future higher education: scholarships, accommodation, moving away from home etc.

60 professionals, mainly from the Pays de la Loire region, but also from other parts of France, volunteered to share their experience and expertise, to give these young people the opportunities they themselves had. The *Entretiens de l'Excellence* speakers graduated from the best schools in the France and represent French society in all its diversity. The *Entretiens de l'Excellence* association is committed to ensuring diversity of representation in terms of gender, profession and level of experience (young graduates, experts, seniors etc).

"Centrale Nantes is pleased to welcome the *Entretiens de l'Excellence* for the fourth time: We are strongly committed to equal opportunities and have been for a long time now, particularly through the BRIO initiative. We train our students to be socially responsible engineers. By showing through example that career paths are accessible whatever one's social origin, such initiatives counter high school students' lack of self-confidence, lack of knowledge of higher education and motivate them to join courses of excellence that they had previously discounted," explained Arnaud Poitou, director of Centrale Nantes.



Find out more: <http://www.lesentretiens.org/evenements/105>

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