

## Printing Giant Hosts Spring Forum

More than 60 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, high school and college students, Information Technology (IT) professionals and others enjoyed presentations and tours of Quad/Graphics two million square foot facility in Sussex on April 23 when they hosted the AbilTy Connection Spring Forum.

The day began with a presentation from **Dave Rice**, Centare Group, and Chair of the Recruitment Committee for AbilTy Connection. He spoke of the opportunities in the IT field. "It is projected that Information Technology will be the fastest growing occupation over the next ten years with increasing salaries because there are fewer people going into the profession," he said.

Mentor **Mike Reed**, SPR, joined his protégé **Timm Sinnen** in talking about their relationship and how the mentoring experience has helped both of them grow. For Timm, who is graduating with a degree from the University of Phoenix, the online university doesn't offer job placement services, and that's where AbilTy Connection and his mentor really helped him make the needed connections. Mike talked about challenges. "I use to think I had challenges in my life, but I discovered, through my work with Timm, I truly don't. My relationship with him is very rewarding." Then AbilTy Connection graduate **Chris LeBombard**, spoke about how the program is an important tool for building your future.

The Spring Forum enables students to interact with peers and professionals, particularly at the host site. For example, at Quad/Graphics, employees talked about job options in the printing industry as well as shared their personal stories of how they chose their career path. AbilTy Connection is a program of Goodwill, which offers mentoring, internships, scholarships and job placement services for students with disabilities who are interested in pursuing a career in information technology.



*Chad Jones (r), Quad/Graphics Software Development Lead, explains to Devon Mallory (l), MPS student and part of the school-to-work transition program, the software systems needed in the automation process.*