



*Al Malpa photos*

The Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy and Windham Public Schools hosted an Early College Opportunity information night. ABOVE: These students, who are in the program, talked about their positive experiences with ECO. From the left is Zachary Flores, Luis Gonzalez, Natalia Perez and Gabriela Lopez. All are in 10th-grade. BELOW: Kristen Negron, program leader for ECO, explains the inner workings of the program.

# Road to academia

## Windham program gives kids a chance

By **MICHELLE FIRESTONE**  
Chronicle Staff Writer

WINDHAM — The future is in gear for Sergio Garcia, a 2014 graduate of Windham High School.

With his associate degree from Quinebaug Valley Community College, earned as a participant in the Windham Early College Opportunity (ECO) program, he was offered a full-time job as a machinist.

He spoke about his experiences with the educational opportunity in a video shown at the Windham ECO information night at the Charles Barrows STEM Academy in North Windham Wednesday.

“That just gives you an idea of what our students can do,” said Windham ECO coordinator Kristen Negron, who is also a

**(Windham ECO. Page 4)**

