

SDNB Students Explore STEM Careers at Building a Better Wisconsin Expo

New Berlin, Wis. – Thirty School District of New Berlin middle school students recently attended the Building a Better Wisconsin Expo as part of the SDNB's Technical Elective Wheel that exposes students to technical offerings such as pre-engineering, graphic art design and computer science.

The field trip allowed the seventh-graders to gain exposure to high-demand STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math) that they may otherwise not be exposed to. The experience supports the District's goal of ensuring all students are college and career ready upon graduation from high school, and reinforces the value of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in that endeavor.

"The Building a Better Wisconsin Expo was a fantastic opportunity for students to discover and explore different careers in the STEM sector. It's a great example of how industry partners are stepping up to provide students with hands-on experiences they wouldn't get otherwise," SDNB technology education teacher Dana McKinnon said.



SDNB students were able to try their hand at a variety of experiences: virtual paint booth, concrete masonry, copper pipe soldering, excavator simulator, real and simulated welding and more. Students appreciated the expo's interactivity, and valued the one-on-one time and encouragement they received from the field experts.

"It's gratifying to see the enthusiasm displayed by the students as they made their way through the different booths and activities. These students have already expressed an interest in STEM by registering for the SDNB Technical Elective Wheel; this experience helped strengthen their interest and provide them with new information to consider when charting out their future academic plans," McKinnon added.

Opportunities like the expo are provided throughout the school year to expose students to topics that are of interest to them. Taking the learning outside of the classroom, providing the opportunity to do hands on activities and work with professional mentors increases the relevance of what students are learning in their classes. Providing chances to attend events like these allow students to better understand the world around them and can serve to inform their academic and career plans.

"Preparing truly College and Career Ready graduates takes a collective commitment to expose students to a wide variety of industries, the opportunities available to them in each one, and the preparation required to take advantage of the opportunities of most interest to them," Superintendent Joe Garza said.

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