

Partnerships Key to Creating Rigorous, Relevant Curriculum

Superintendent Garza spoke at Independent Business Association of Wisconsin event

New Berlin, Wis. – Superintendent Joe Garza was invited to address the Independent Business Association of Wisconsin (IBAW) last week to discuss the School District of New Berlin’s efforts to ensure students graduate College and Career Ready.

Over the past year, the District’s College and Career Readiness initiative has attracted the attention of Governor Scott Walker, Department of Workforce Development secretary Reggie Newson, and UW System President Ray Cross. Superintendent Garza also recently addressed New Berlin representatives at a legislative update hosted by the New Berlin Chamber of Commerce.

Business owners, as well as post-secondary educators, have expressed growing concerns that students may not be adequately prepared for the rigor of college or the expectations of employment.

The cost and time to complete a post-secondary education continues to be a concern. Many students pursue a post-secondary education without a strong sense of what they are investing in. This makes it difficult to efficiently and effectively navigate the system to ensure students accomplish their personal, academic, social and career objectives. In some cases, students aren’t even aware of the options available to them.

“Together we must help students develop a diverse set of talents that can fuel innovation and job creation while supporting projected workforce needs,” Garza said. “We want to be part of the solution. But we can’t do it alone. We need help to discover what we don’t know about the environments we are preparing our students for and the opportunities available to best support them.”

SDNB has sought advice from students, parents, community members, industry experts, and post-secondary providers to increase the relevance of programming and supports provided to students district wide.

Garza’s overview of the SDNB ‘Student Experience’ included these highlights:

- rigorous academics;
- personalized goal setting, planning and mentorship;
- embedded career and technical education;
- opportunities to “Show What You Know”;
- and, strong post-secondary alignment.

“We believe that all students can benefit from rigorous academics combined with career and technical education. This is what will set students apart in the new economy,” Garza said..

Garza provided an overview of some of the District’s newer programs to support students interested in Health Care, IT/Computer Science, Manufacturing, Engineering, Business/Entrepreneurship and Education. The group also discussed the need to support students interested in construction and skilled trades.



Many IBAW members asked District officials how they could get involved in the local and regional efforts Garza presented.

“We were honored to have been invited to address such an impressive group of business owners in Southeast Wisconsin and were encouraged by their support of our work,” Garza said. “Educating students who will become our future innovators, job creators, job seekers and community members is our collective work. We simply can’t do it alone.”

Related links:

- [College and Career Readiness in the SDNB](#)
- [Career Day 2015 - Success in the New Economy \(video\)](#)
- [Our Collective Work - College and Career Readiness](#)
- [Experiential Learning - An Edge for the Future \(video\)](#)
- [Governor Walker Visits SDNB](#)
- [Governor Walker's Council Selects SDNB for Financial Literacy Award](#)
- [UW President Cross Visit](#)

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