

Milwaukee NARI Presents New Berlin Schools with Gift of Tools for Construction Program, SkillsUSA Competition

New Berlin, Wis. - Representatives of the Milwaukee National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Foundation and the NARI Workforce Development Board presented students from the School District of New Berlin's construction program with a gift of tools and equipment to support lab space at New Berlin Eisenhower and New Berlin West on Feb. 28.

Tools will also be used by SDNB students who will compete in next month's SkillsUSA competition.

NARI representatives included David Amoroso (RSPR Marketing & Communications), Tom Mainville (Story Hill Renovations), Chris Klug (ABC Audio Video), Bingo Emmons (Creative Construction), and Andy Pouchnik (Ironwood Builders).

"It was great for the NARI representatives to come in to talk to students about how they got started and how that led to leadership positions in the trade industry," said Jeffrey Martin, SDNB construction teacher. "We are grateful for their support of the program."

Over the past four years, the SDNB has continued to build capacity for the program at both secondary schools. During the 2016-17 school year, there were nearly 150 students enrolled in construction or construction related courses. Preliminary registration numbers suggest an increase of 30 students for 2017-18.

Earlier this year, the district partnered with Milwaukee School of Engineering, Mortenson, Gilbane, and Kiewit to put on the first "Future Builder" event, which included a series of construction-related workshops and a tour of the Northwestern Mutual building.

"We are hopeful that this can become an annual event for the region," Superintendent Joe Garza said. "The SDNB construction program develops not only career-ready but also life-ready skills. We simply could not offer and enrich programs like these without industry support."

The Milwaukee Public Policy Forum recently released the report *Building Bridges - An Analysis of Career and Technical Education in Metro Milwaukee*. This report highlighted the challenges associated with offering and sustaining career and technical education programs in K12 schools throughout Wisconsin. Through programs like construction and others, the SDNB is committed to fueling innovation and job creation while supporting projected workforce needs.

Related links:

- [MSOE Future Builders Event - JSOnline story](#)
- [Building Bridges report](#)

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