

School District of New Berlin Celebrates Career and Technical Education Month

New Berlin, Wis. - The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has designated February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. Incorporating rigorous academics with career and technical education is the cornerstone of the SDNB's plan to prepare all graduates to be "college and career ready".

"It is imperative that we approach K-12 talent development as holistically as possible to ensure our graduates are not only well educated, but also possess the skills and dispositions that will be valued in the projected workforce," said Superintendent Joe Garza.

Career and technical education provides benefits to all students regardless of their post-secondary pursuits, including opportunities to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to real-life situations, the ability to explore different programs of study, and the framework in which to develop skills in a specific area of interest.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 44 percent of students do not complete a baccalaureate degree within six years. Forty-eight percent of those that do finish are underemployed, according to the National Center on College Affordability. This is sometimes attributed to students not understanding what they want to get out of their post-secondary education before choosing their program and/or provider. The SDNB strives to prepare all students to be informed consumers of post-secondary education and/or training to ensure they can achieve their personal, academic, social and career goals.

The District's work with College and Career Readiness has been commended by many local, county and state officials. Their most recent video, *Experiential Learning - An Edge for the Future*, has been featured on the Department of Public Instruction's website as an example of how project and/or work based learning can benefit all students.

The District strives to approach career and technical education holistically and offers students a variety of different ways to personalize their education to support the goals they set for their future; including career days, industry tours, technical coursework, industry certifications, college in high school programming, internships, etc.

"Ensuring the relevance of student learning opportunities is a key aspect of our strategic plan," said Garza. "However, we can't do that without the support of our community. This is our collective work."

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Related links:

- [SDNB's Personalized Career and Technical Education website](#)
- [SDNB's Career and Technical Education Foundations website](#)
- [SDNB's College and Career Readiness](#)
- [Experiential Learning Video](#)