

Inspire SE Wisconsin Honors Two New Berlin West Students

New Berlin, Wis. – Two School District of New Berlin students were honored this week at the Inspire Southeast Wisconsin's Community Partner Award Luncheon held at the Junior Achievement of Wisconsin's Milwaukee office.

Inspire Southeast Wisconsin is a regional network of businesses and educators that collaborate on ways to connect students to relevant learning experiences that can help shape their Academic and Career Plans.

Maddie Minik, a junior at New Berlin West High School, was chosen as Inspire SE WI's 2016 Outstanding Student of the Year after actively leveraging Inspire to research potential opportunities for an internship during her senior year and setting up a job shadow at GE Healthcare to see some potential careers in action.

Maddie also participated in a panel moderated by the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* Mark Sabljak. The panel, comprised of students and local employers, fielded questions about how students approach career planning, what and who are their major influencers, employer challenges such as how businesses can address current and anticipated shortages in the workforce, and more.

Andrew Moy, a senior at West, was recognized for winning Inspire's student video contest. Andrew's video highlighted the positive affect the Inspire tool has had on the SDNB students' career exploration process, supporting an important component of their Academic and Career Planning. His video featured West classmates Nicholas Brown, Jenni King, and Josh Kryszewski, along with New Berlin Eisenhower counselor Jesse Annoye.

With the help from Wisconsin's Fast Forward High School Grant, the Inspire of SE WI network provided select schools in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties with the web-based tool Inspire, which integrates with the Academic and Career Planning software funded by the state for K-12 districts. Both the ACP software as well as the Inspire add-on are provided by the software vendor, Career Cruising; however, the State ACP contract does not include Inspire.

Consequently, it is up to each individual community, county, or region to decide whether to invest in Inspire as it takes additional licensing and staffing to work with businesses and schools to effectively implement Inspire on a regional level.

"The program makes it easier for students and schools to connect with local employers who want to provide meaningful career-based learning activities like employer research, career coaching, job shadows, internships, etc. to support students as they develop and begin to execute their Academic and Career Plans," said Karin Smith, Executive Director of Inspire of SE WI.

Representatives from local businesses and organizations, as well as school district personnel and students who have benefitted from the connections to businesses and career counselors made possible through Inspire, attended the luncheon. In addition to the SDNB awards, additional awards were given to Inspire's Community Partner of the Year (Milwaukee 7), Company of the Year (Manpower) and School of the Year (Bradley Tech).

“Everyone involved in the Inspire of SE WI network is committed to helping students graduate as informed consumers of post-secondary education and/or training,” Smith added.

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