

Eaton, Generac and Inpro Open Their Doors to SDNB Students Interested in Manufacturing and Engineering Careers

New Berlin, Wis. – On April 12, three prominent Waukesha County manufacturing companies hosted facility tours for 24 School District of New Berlin high school students interested in exploring manufacturing and engineering careers. Visits were made to Eaton’s Waukesha facility, the Generac plant in Eagle, and Inpro at their headquarters in Muskego. The tour event is a key part of SDNB’s annual College and Career Readiness Event Series which helps inform the students’ high school course selections and post-secondary planning.

The tours were arranged through the Waukesha County Business Alliance’s Schools2Skills™ program, an initiative designed to give young people a first-hand look into the innovation and advanced technology happening across manufacturing companies here in Southeastern Wisconsin.

“On behalf of the Waukesha County Business Alliance, we have been pleased to offer this program to Waukesha County students for the past 5 years. These students are at an important stage where they can begin to explore the myriad of career opportunities available to them. Schools2Skills gives them the chance to learn that manufacturing isn’t dull, dirty and dangerous, but clean, safe and high tech. Besides, there’s nothing cooler than knowing something you worked on is helping people around the world,” said Eric Huemmer, WCBA Public Relations & Communications Coordinator.

The students learned that Wisconsin leads the country in manufacturing, consistently ranking #1 or #2 among all states while contributing 19.6% to our state’s gross domestic product. Seventeen percent of the state’s workforce is directly employed in manufacturing.

Professionals at each location shared their role at the company, their individual employment stories and the unique pathway each of them took to get to the position they are in today. They also discussed the employability skill set that they look for when filling a wide range of positions within their organizations. Workers who are self-motivated problem solvers, great communicators, collaborators, and life-long learners have a place in manufacturing.

“Today’s industry tour of three of the leading manufacturers in Waukesha county is a great example of the type of partnerships that are critical to our district. Our students benefit from the chance to learn about a variety of career possibilities and what it takes to secure those positions. The insights gained through these tours are invaluable as students continue to plan and prepare for their future,” said SDNB Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, John Budish.

The day concluded with a tour of Waukesha County Technical College’s School of Applied Technologies. The students visited equipment labs for WCTC Dual Enrollment Academy programs in metal fabrication and welding, tool and die/CNC, and printing and publishing. They also toured areas for electronics, architectural drafting, electrical and construction engineering and robotics.

The School District of New Berlin supports students interested in exploring engineering and manufacturing pathways through an intentional variety of programming, co-curriculars and community partnerships. The district offers a full course progression in Project Lead The Way Engineering and Design coursework which allow students to earn credits through MSOE and other PLTW affiliate organizations. Also offered is an

Introduction to Manufacturing course that exposes students to a variety of careers in the manufacturing industry and provides the opportunity to earn MSSC Certifications that can set a student apart as they transition to post-secondary pursuits.

Additionally, students with an interest in manufacturing can enroll in coursework through WCTC's Dual Enrollment Academy which gives them the chance to earn 20-24 WCTC credits, including an industry credential, by the time they graduate high school. Co-curriculars such as Robotics and the BUILD Vintage Motorcycle Racing Team, as well as opportunities for work-based learning placement at local businesses, enrich the student experience exponentially. "We're grateful to our local business partners who have provided students with paid opportunities in quality assurance, assembly, testing, automation, data entry and more," said Budish.

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