



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHWEST ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JO DAVIESS CARROLL CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACADEMY HOST ANNUAL MANUFACTURING & TRADES DAY

HANOVER, ILLINOIS – Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED), in partnership with the Jo Daviess Carroll Career Technical Educational Academy (CTEA), hosted their fourth annual Manufacturing & Trades Day event on Thursday, October 3, 2024, with record attendances.

The event takes highschoolers into area manufacturing facilities for site visits and to the CTEA for interactive hands-on learning sessions led by area trades focused businesses and small manufacturers to showcase the potential of their industries and foster career interest. The event also featured numerous area agencies and businesses who came and offered information on their educational and apprenticeship opportunities.

“It is NWILED’s hope that by offering this experience to our region’s youth that they better understand the opportunities and quality of life available to them in Northwest Illinois after they graduate from high school,” said David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director. “Our goal is to help stabilize the outward population migration of the region’s youth, increase the local workforce, and to bring attention to local quality in-demand career opportunities.”

Manufacturing & Trades Day is a true regional event that is not only fun for the students, but it also creates a great workforce development opportunity for employers. This October’s event had all nine high schools from Carroll and Jo Daviess counties participating, plus Lena-Winslow High in Stephenson County. That combined plan sent upwards of 360, primarily sophomore students, to the event. Helping facilitate their experience was about 30 area businesses and agencies, including JCE Coop, Arrow Solar, Adkins Energy, Zurn Elkay Water Solutions, Highland Community College, Citizens State Bank, Galena Area Chamber of Commerce, Gradient Coaching & Consulting, Jo Daviess County Board, Nicor Gas, ComEd, Galena Territory Association, Prairie Ridge of Galena, Guy’s Towing & Service, University of Illinois Extension 4-H, MacLean-Fogg Component Solutions – Metform, East Dubuque Nitrogen Fertilizers, Carroll Innovative Manufacturing, Origin Design, Tri-State Travel, Business Employment Skills Team, Forster Products, Midwest Medical Center, McCoy Group, Helm Group, ProTect Metal Sales, Hirschbach, and the United States Penitentiary – Thomson.

Of the event Chad Stenberg, Executive Director at Jo Daviess Carroll Career Technical Education Academy, said, “Nothing is more encouraging than seeing the professionals, in our region, take time from their busy schedules to share their expertise and provide quality career education to our students.”

For more information about NWILED or our Manufacturing & Trades Day event, contact NWILED directly at 815-297-7361 or dschmit@nwiled.org.

ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was formed in 2008 by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors whose main goals were to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. The Board's focus was to form a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses in determining their needs for growth with cooperation of government and business partners. NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employ all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.

ABOUT CTEA

The Jo Daviess Carroll CTE Academy (formerly Jo Daviess Carroll Area Vocational Center) has proudly been delivering quality career and technical education to high school students and adult learners since 1972. The CTE Academy is a collaborative public education entity of six local districts: Galena, River Ridge, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, and West Carroll.

The Vocational Center opened its doors to students from the participating districts in the fall of 1972, having undergone a number of revisions over the years as career and technical needs of the districts changed. Juniors and Seniors, or students sixteen years of age, are eligible to enroll in a technical program. They must enroll at their home district with their Guidance Counselor. CTE classes are not required, but are electives.

The CTE Academy is funded through tuition paid by the member districts and numerous grants. CTE classes offer dual credit through Highland Community College. There is no cost for these credits.

Over the years, the Jo Daviess Carroll CTE Academy has offered quality technical education to over 11,000 students in our community.