

## News Release

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### Awards recognize Business Friends of Education

MADISON — Nine business and industry partnerships that provide opportunities for students to learn about various careers received Business Friends of Education awards Friday (April 23) during the 74th annual Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education Conference in Appleton.

State Superintendent Tony Evers commended his 2010 Business Friends of Education award recipients for their dedication to students and initiatives that help them graduate ready for the workforce and further education.

“The businesses we are recognizing today developed partnerships with classes in career and technical education to find ways to better serve students,” Evers said. “These Business Friends of Education share a vision for growing Wisconsin through education. Their initiatives are helping educators across the state achieve the goal of having every child graduate ready for the workforce or further education.”

Evers presented awards to

- Altra Federal Credit Union in Onalaska,
- Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin, headquartered in Madison,
- Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee,
- D & S Manufacturing of Black River Falls,
- Eagle River Animal Hospital in Eagle River,
- Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce,
- Good Samaritan Health Center in Merrill,
- Lake Geneva Fire Department; and
- NEWCAP Inc. of Oconto.

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**NOTE:** Additional information for each 2010 State Superintendent’s Business Friends of Education award recipient is available in the attached list. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010\\_55.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2010_55.pdf).

2010 State Superintendent's  
**Business Friends of Education Awards**

**Altra Federal Credit Union** in Onalaska, was recognized for its partnership with the Holmen High School marketing and business department over the past four years to support the school's personal finance course. The credit union has presented a variety of financial topics in over 65 classrooms, hired youth apprentice and co-op students, and provided funding for students in DECA. Altra Federal Credit Union Director of Education **Lori Horstman** accepted the award.

**Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin**, headquartered in Madison, received an award for its instrumental role in developing the state certified construction co-op program that impacts schools and communities across the entire state of Wisconsin. The group also provided funding for wages for co-op students during the pilot and first year of implementation. Accepting the award for Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin were **Bob Barker**, executive vice president; **Laura Cataldo**, director of workforce and industry outreach; and **Kelly Hafeman**, president of both Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin and Howard Immel Inc.

**Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee** was recognized for leading a successful initiative to create the Building, Architecture, and Technology Leadership Academy at Bay View High School. The company also worked with the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/BIG STEP, which collaborates to prepare Bay View High School students for entry into postsecondary education or the construction trades. **Heather Stair** represented the company in receiving the award.

**D & S Manufacturing** from Black River Falls partnered with Black River Falls High School to create curriculum and provide materials and training for students and teachers. Additionally, the company hired an instructor to allow local citizens to be better trained in welding. In partnership with Western Technical College, the company developed "Max and Ben's Manufacturing Adventures," a video tour on manufacturing careers for middle school students that is posted on the web. **Sherrie Hein** accepted the award on behalf of D & S Manufacturing.

For the past 24 years, **Dr. Dan and Carol Paretsky** of **Eagle River Animal Hospital** in Eagle River, have given students the opportunity to work with them through the Northland Pines High School school-to-work program. Students witnessed the veterinary business, from customer service, to care of animals, to financial transactions. Additionally, the Paretskys have been members of the Career and Technical Advisory Panel and were involved in the Career Fair.

The **Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce**, in cooperation with six manufacturing partners and Moraine Park Technical College, implemented Project GRILL (Growing Readiness in Leading and Learning) in 2008. The goal of Project GRILL is to attract open-minded, team-oriented young people and teach them skills for 21st century manufacturing positions. Student teams from area high schools are matched with local manufacturers to design and build a functional charcoal grill. However, these are not everyday grills, some resemble a car engine others have been solar-powered. During this creative journey, students learn all aspects of taking a product from concept through production. **Mary Denzin**, the association's director of educational partnerships, and **Jim Cleveland**, director of education programs, accepted the award.

For more than 15 years, **Good Samaritan Health Center** in Merrill has contributed to exploratory programs of Health Internship, Health Youth Apprenticeships, Athletic Training Co-ops, Business Partnerships, and Job Shadow Days. Good Samaritan works with teachers, serves on advisory committees, and is a work-based partner for students. Merrill High School is the only high school to offer an Athletic Training Co-op course with most of the class work completed in the center's rehabilitation department. Good Samaritan Health Center Business Contact **Carol Crevier** accepted the award.

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The **Lake Geneva Fire Department** is a partner in the Fire Fighter Program, established with Lake Geneva – Genoa City Union High School and Gateway Technical College. Currently, students from Badger, Delavan-Darien, and Wilmot high schools are participating in a two-year Youth Options program, taking their classes in the fire station training center. In addition to providing training and equipment to teach the skills for the Fire Fighter I State Certification test, the department has set up a duty-shift schedule that gives students added exposure to career skills. Fire Chief **Brent Connelly** accepted the award.

In the spring of 2003 Oconto High School's Technology Education Department and **NEWCAP Inc.** of Oconto formed a partnership to build a duplex for low-income, handicapped people in Oconto. Students work alongside sub contractors to experience the plumbing, heating, electrical, insulation, and finishing systems that go into building the duplexes. NEWCAP acts as the general contractor for the projects, which allows teachers to concentrate on the learning needs of the students, demonstrating that "what we teach matters." The company serves on advisory committees and builds relationships with the school and other businesses in the community as well. **Robert Koller**, executive director, accepted the award for NEWCAP Inc.