

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

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Contact: DPI Communications Message Line, (608) 266-3559

Evers names eight Business Friends of Education

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers named eight business and industry partnerships as 2014 Business Friends of Education, recognizing the power of such projects to help students graduate well prepared for college and career.

The 2014 Business Friends of Education awards will be presented April 11 during the annual Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference in Middleton. Following the awards breakfast, the honorees will participate in a panel discussion to share their experiences integrating academic knowledge, technical and career education, and workplace learning skills.

“The collaborative partnerships fostered between industry and education play a key role in preparing Wisconsin students for the future,” Evers said. “These supportive relationships make a difference in student’s lives and strengthen our communities for years to come.”

Awards will be presented to:

- Country View Veterinary Clinic, Oregon;
- Cummins Emissions Solutions, Mineral Point;
- GenMet, Mequon;
- Lakeshore Health Care Alliance, Sheboygan;
- NEW Manufacturing Alliance, Green Bay;
- Precision Plus, Elkhorn;
- Project SEARCH, Madison; and
- WESTconsin Credit Union, Hudson.

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NOTES: Additional information on recipients of the 2014 State Superintendent’s Business Friends of Education awards is available in the attached list. This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014_43.pdf.

2014 State Superintendent's
Business Friends of Education Awards

Amy Robinson of **Country View Veterinary Clinic** has lent her expertise as a veterinarian to improve the educational experiences of Oregon High School students and its career and technical education program. In just the past four years, Robinson has worked with 14 agriculture youth apprenticeship students, providing hands-on experience and skills to help them pursue their interests in veterinary or animal fields. In addition, Robinson volunteers her time as a member of the local agriculture advisory committee and works with instructors to create pet care/veterinary science and horse and animal science curriculum that is engaging and relevant for students.

The partnership between **Cummins Emissions Solutions** and Mineral Point Unified School District has opened doors for students in this district. Cummins has shown great commitment to advancing the technology and engineering programs, through financial support which enabled the small, rural community to initiate a Project Lead the Way program and expand it to elementary schools during the nation's first round of pilot programs for that level. In addition, Cummins employees forge personal connections with Mineral Point students through conducting mock interviews, presenting to science and engineering classes, welcoming students on site-visits and job shadows, and by hosting "Girls in Engineering," a parent-student event. Accepting the award for Cummins Emissions will be Denny Horn and Lisa Thompson.

As a member of the Port Washington-Saukville School District STEM Advisory Board, Eric Isbister of **GenMet** has been an advocate for getting students excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), so they continue down the path toward a high-demand STEM career. GenMet has helped Port Washington High School purchase up-to-date manufacturing equipment and provides students and instructors with exposure to the real world of manufacturing by welcoming them on tours to witness cutting-edge metal fabrication processes. Isbister has personally enhanced the education of career and technical education students by bringing his industry knowledge to the classroom, to review and critique student projects and conduct mock interviews. Isbister will accept the award on behalf of GenMet.

For students at South High School in Sheboygan, a partnership with **Lakeshore Health Care Alliance (LSHCA)** has helped bring the health care pathway to life. The alliance funds college health care courses taught on-site at South, allowing students to learn more about the field while earning dual credit at no cost or inconvenience to them. Beyond the classroom, LSHCA provides exposure to health care careers by connecting students to health care professionals and internship opportunities and by funding field trips to local health care agencies. A member of the alliance also serves on the school's Health Care Pathway Advisory Council to provide helpful expertise and guidance on program goals, course offerings, and connections with the community.

NEW Manufacturing Alliance has collaborated with Green Bay Area Public Schools to create a number of resources and professional development opportunities to help educators inform their students about careers in manufacturing. The Educators on Tour of Manufacturing program shows educators around local facilities to help them gain a first-hand understanding of the world of manufacturing with which to frame classroom lessons. Two classroom video series, *Careers in Manufacturing* and *Math Matters*, teach students about ways of applying their classroom learning to the world of manufacturing. The alliance also hosts a Manufacturing Expo for students to make connections with representatives from local manufacturing companies. All these efforts have helped enhance student experiences while elevating Career and Technical Education in Green Bay Area Public schools. Accepting the award for NEW Manufacturing Alliance will be Mark Kaiser.

Career and Technical Education at Elkhorn High School has benefited tremendously from the dedication of their partner, **Precision Plus**. Recognizing the growing need for a skilled workforce, Precision Plus offers youth apprenticeships and internships so students can gain exposure to a manufacturing environment under the guidance of an experienced mentor. Precision Plus has also played a crucial role in hosting Elkhorn's Manufacturing Career

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Panel, bringing in representatives from manufacturing industries across the country to discuss with students the many opportunities in manufacturing careers and the skills and experiences employers are looking for. Precision Plus generously provides ongoing facility tours to students and parents and is developing on-site classes to train students from neighboring schools in high-demand manufacturing skills. Michael Reader and Barry Butters will accept the award for Precision Plus.

Project SEARCH is an innovative partnership between the Madison Metropolitan School District, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, and the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital. The partnership provides 12-month rotational internships for students with disabilities, ages 18-21. Project SEARCH gives students complete immersion in a business setting combined with classroom instruction on employability skills and personalized feedback structures. The project's Business Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from participating businesses, assists students by providing feedback, mock interviews, and a network for obtaining integrated employment. Students complete the program equipped with the skills and work experience necessary to transition into jobs. Dr. Eileen Ahearn, Mary Mussey, and Richard Murphy will accept the award on behalf of Project SEARCH.

WESTconsin Credit Union and its staff have demonstrated strong support of financial literacy curriculum in a partnership with Hudson School District. WESTconsin Credit Union has employed Hudson students as youth apprentices throughout their five-year partnership, and branch Vice President Chuck Jerrick has demonstrated even further commitment to strengthening youth apprenticeship programs by serving on the Regional Youth Apprenticeship Steering Committee. Beyond offering students these experiential learning opportunities, WESTconsin Credit Union enriches student experiences in the classroom setting, where employees have shared their real-world know-how through presentations on financial literacy topics and by serving as judges and reviewing students' projects. Several WESTconsin employees serve on Hudson's Finance Advisory Council, which puts on events geared toward financial literacy and career exploration. The branch also awards a generous scholarship to graduating Hudson seniors each year. Jerrick will accept the award on behalf of WESTconsin Credit Union.