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Developing Our Workforce: Governor Scott Walker, State Superintendent Tony Evers Promote Manufacturing Education and Careers at Beloit Memorial High School

Beloit – Governor Scott Walker and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers today met with students, faculty, and administrators at Beloit Memorial High School and toured its Technical Education Programming Space to promote manufacturing education and careers. Beloit Memorial High School features one of the best career and technical education programs in the state, offering students training in welding, CNC machining, cabinetry, millwork, and other areas.

“The education and training being done at Beloit Memorial is exceptional, and the students are receiving an invaluable experience,” Governor Walker said. “The thing I hear most from employers across Wisconsin is, ‘we have positions to fill, but not enough skilled workers to fill them.’ Beloit Memorial is addressing this issue and training the next generation in exciting ways. The students and faculty here should be proud of their work.”

Wisconsin’s Youth Apprenticeship program had 360 students enrolled in manufacturing-related programs in the 2012–2013 school year. The program combines classroom instruction with on-the-job training enabling a student to graduate high school with the skills needed for an entry-level job in manufacturing.

“I am excited to see how the Beloit Memorial High School technology education department is getting students into the manufacturing workforce pipeline,” said State Superintendent Evers. “The manufacturing industry is a vital part of Wisconsin’s economic fabric and I am proud of all our K-12 manufacturing education programs across the state. They are helping us achieve our goal to have every child graduate ready for college or career.”

More than 324 school districts in Wisconsin currently offer a manufacturing-related course, including classes in welding, metalworking, machining, and wood processing and production. In addition, many middle and high school students participate in SkillsUSA, an organization providing educational opportunities encouraging youth to consider careers in the manufacturing industry.

Today’s visit to Beloit Memorial High School was in conjunction with Governor Walker’s proclamation of October as [Manufacturing Month](#). The manufacturing industry is the backbone of the state’s economy, contributing \$49.9 billion to Wisconsin’s gross state product and employing more than 450,000 people in 2012.

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