



# SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Developing Our Workforce: Governor Scott Walker Tours Cardinal Manufacturing Program Shop**

*Eleva-Strum advanced manufacturing students learn skills by operating actual production facility*

**Strum** – Today, Governor Scott Walker traveled to Strum to tour Eleva-Strum High School’s Cardinal Manufacturing shop and learn about the manufacturing curriculum and the student-run Cardinal Manufacturing Program. This program provides high school students with hands-on training in manufacturing, marketing, and business.

“Students in this program aren’t just learning about the manufacturing industry, they’re part of the manufacturing industry,” Governor Walker said. “I commend the leaders in this district for having the vision to implement a program offering real-world experience through real business projects and deadlines. These skills will pay dividends in the future for students and the business owners hiring them.”

Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson described the Eleva-Strum program as a great example in building a new generation of skilled workers, “What teacher Craig Cegielski and his Eleva-Strum High School tech ed students have achieved with Cardinal Manufacturing is a model for instructors and students elsewhere, not only in Wisconsin, but other states. On many levels, it qualifies as a best practice in technical education. It began with a notion that gave birth to innovation and a strong partnership in a successful, school-to-work enterprise that teaches students not only how to make quality products in demand, but how to sell and distribute them.”

Eleva-Strum High School launched the Cardinal Manufacturing Program in 2007. It is a self-funded, student run business geared toward providing students with the real-life skills needed to get ahead in today’s economy. Students accepted into the year-long program operate a real manufacturing business and fill positions such as welders, machinists, and office managers. They are responsible for all aspects of production from quoting jobs to machining parts and even shipping finished products. At the end of the year, students are paid a percentage of their earnings with the rest of the profits going towards maintenance of the program and equipment.

### Developing our Workforce

The 2013-2015 state budget, signed by Governor Walker, includes \$100 million investment in worker training. Governor Walker’s *Wisconsin Fast Forward* initiatives provide customized worker training in key areas, like manufacturing, construction, and customer service. The state enrolled more than 1,200 high school students in the Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program, and in December, Governor Walker signed legislation at Nicolet Technical College to add at least 500 more high school students to the program. Other workforce development initiatives include a \$1,000 per pupil incentive for high schools

to provide career and technical education programs, and a scholarship for high school students, who excel in technical education. The Department of Workforce Development also launched Skill Explorer, a web-based tool allowing individuals search for openings based on skills instead of job titles.

Governor Walker's *Blueprint for Prosperity* includes a \$35 million increase to the *Wisconsin Fast Forward* program to focus on: eliminating technical college waiting lists for high demand fields including manufacturing, agriculture, and Information Technology; and helping high school students get training in high demand jobs through dual enrollment programs between our high schools and technical colleges. The *Blueprint for Prosperity* also supports the year of *A Better Bottom Line* initiative, by helping people with disabilities enter the workforce.

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