

Dewitt Chamber & Development Company

Manufacturing & STEM Fest 2017

by Erin Niemann, Business Education Coordinator



On Friday October 6th.....

Our second Bi-Annual Manufacturing & STEM Fest Event was held at the Central Dewitt High School. Over 900 students from Calamus-Wheatland, Central Dewitt & St. Joe's Schools were able to experience this two hour long event. The students were able to listen to Matthew Nicol with HNI in Muscatine, IA talk about Advanced Manufacturing. As well as our Local Manufacturing Speakers: Adam Gravert with Guardian Glass in DeWitt & Amy Kerr with Nestle Purina in Clinton. Our speakers talked about the new technologies, different career opportunities, job environments, and much more on how today's manufacturing world is at the top of its game.

What was one thing you learned from the speakers?

Student Response: *That there is so much more than the jobs you imagine when thinking about manufacturing.*

Student Response: *I learned that there is a lot more manufacturing and STEM around DeWitt than I thought.*

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Fest was held in the High School Competition Gym and was filled with businesses from our local region. Over 30 businesses set up booths with hands-on activities and very impressive visuals for the students to experience. The most special part of this event is to see our Clinton County business professionals and our

eager students collaborating and getting excited about possible careers. As a business volunteer you are a role model more than you know and these area students have some great leaders to look up to in our community. The students did get to VOTE on their favorite booth and the winner is..... NECKER'S Jewelers!

The Student Groups at Central Dewitt School were able to set up their own tables and visuals in the atrium for their fellow classmates to see and ask questions. FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), Robotics, and FFA (Future Farmers of America) were able to show the fun and very impressive projects that they have been working on throughout the year. There are many awesome opportunities that are right in the school walls and it's fun to showcase those opportunities.

"Never stop learning" (Adam Gravert, Guardian). That is exactly what this event was for me. This was the largest event I have ever planned and it was a new challenge. The role of the Business Education Coordinator is to collaborate business and school to show the opportunities available. I truly appreciate working with each and every one of the businesses and speakers listed above. It was fun to meet new people and work with some familiar faces. Working with the schools and teachers is always my favorite part of this job. Their open minds and willingness, to trust us to put an event together that takes up a whole afternoon, is the how this event is possible.

THANK YOU.....

Sponsors: HNI, Career Connections, DeWitt Chamber & Development Company, and STEM Iowa.

STEM Fest Booth: ATEEC Interactive Learning Lab from Eastern Iowa Community College(Clinton), Black Cat Blades (DeWitt) & Genesis Robotics (Mt.Joy), Custom Pak (DeWitt), DeWitt Bank & Trust, First Central State Bank (DeWitt), Guardian(DeWitt), Hill Chiropractic (DeWitt), ISU Extension (DeWitt), Necker's Jewelers (DeWitt), P&K Midwest (DeWitt), River Valley Coop(DeWitt), Wendling Quarries(DeWitt), Women's Health Services (Clinton), DeWitt Fire Department, Genesis Ambulance (DeWitt), Genesis Physical Therapy(DeWitt), Genesis Acute Care (DeWitt), Genesis Operating Room (DeWitt), Grothus Drag Bikes & Sentry Industries(DeWitt), HNI AllSteel HON (Muscatine), Iowa Mutual Insurance Services (DeWitt), and Life Connections (Clinton).

Rachel Green (Senior at Central DeWitt High School) for the amazing **Highlight Video** is available for viewing soon!

Stacy Paper with ***Turning the Page Photography***, for taking action shots of the day. It was exciting to look at all of the students interacting at the STEM Fest and student booths. I will work on sharing the pictures to all of the businesses.

Prizes & Winners

HNI Office Chair: Alyssa Eden, Central Dewitt High School

Go Pro Headset: Jacob Vosler, St. Joseph's School

Amazon Fire Stick and Amazon Dot: Avery Schneider, Calamus-Wheatland School

\$50 Chamber Bucks: Marika Rosenboom, Central DeWitt High School

Our next **Manufacturing & STEM Day** will be held in **October 2019**. Please contact me if you are interested or have questions! We have some fun ideas and can't wait to start planning!

becoordinator@dewittiowa.org or Call the DCDC office at 563-659-8500.