



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

NEWSLETTER

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December 2021

ISD 728 CTE NEWSLETTER

Interesting times with tight labor supplies: The MN Dept of Employment & Economic Development published “ The decline in labor force participation is a major factor holding back Minnesota's job rebound pace over the last 16 months. Demand for workers has never been higher. There are a variety of reasons contributing to MN's labor force drop during the pandemic. Fear of contracting COVID-19, persistent child care challenges, uncertainty of in-person schooling, extended UI benefits, skills mismatch between workers seeking employment and the jobs with vacancies, and an uptick in retirement rates have all been cited as reasons why the state's labor force remains below its pre pandemic level.”

CTE continues to modify to meet these challenges and be responsive to students and industry needs. CTE has a role to provide all students access to training needed for a successful career that offers financial stability and creates the talent business needs to thrive. CTE teachers met with local businesses over the last month in advisory meetings to work together to modify programs and curriculum. Summary from the advisory meetings:

Automotive: Celebrated the Car Donation with Ford and Cornerstone - this will allow more students to have hands-on experience with newer technology. The importance of exposure of students to the automotive industry. The group discussed having a Cool Jobs Evening in Transportation, industry speakers in high school auto classes, presenters at career lunches in middle schools, and having Ford Asset program out to high schools. Industries are hiring and willing to train CDL drivers, service technicians, parts positions and more.

Construction: Discussed the increased costs of materials and Brad Richardson, with Christian Builders donated \$5,150 to both Elk River and Zimmerman High School to help with their woods classes in memory of his son Josh. Brad donated \$10,000 to Rogers two years ago. Matt Campanario offered an instructor from the Carpenters Training Institute to help with classes and \$9000 in materials for classes through a grant. Veit talked about their shortage of workers, the college and union said they have an increase of students & apprentices. Employers shared they are looking for someone with a Good Attitude, Reliable & Teamwork. They will train the rest. The group wants to see more career exploration for students, parents, teachers and counselors in the trades.

Manufacturing/Welding: Great discussion about how to make sure students have a career path identified before going to college. We need more career exploration events like the 8th grade event, cool jobs tour, job shadowing and career lunches as students currently only choose classes by word of mouth. Suggestion to have counselors attend advisory meetings, share more success stories like Mr. Udee([@coach_udee](https://twitter.com/coach_udee)) had on Twitter recently. Employers are increasing pay, becoming more flexible as they try to fill openings. A special thanks to Erick Trost at St. Francis High School as he dropped off sheet metal for all three schools to use in their classes.

Business and Marketing: Reviewed current classes being offered and continue to ask how we can add the Business and Marketing Program at Zimmerman High School. As offering Personal Finance and Accounting online is not

enough. Employers shared their challenges with hiring, some had great success with Linked In. Struggles of finding employees causing businesses to reduce hours. The school district is experiencing staff shortages too. The group asked about career exploration days at the schools. ISD 728 has done this in the past and is looking to offer one in Spring at Zimmerman this year. Special Thanks to The Bank of Elk River for being an anchor partner with the district and sponsoring Banzai financial literacy program.

Communications: Student News is Back at ERHS! - But numbers at ERHS for Photo are down after COVID - ZHS remain the same as they are so limited on what they can offer with only two teachers that also teach middle school. Boyle shared that the industry is changing so much with digital and videos that providing experiences is more important than teaching technical skills which may be outdated by the time students begin their career. Teachers would love to have employers come in and speak to Graphic Design and Photo Classes.

Hospitality: FACS teachers are excited to be able to offer Introduction to Education in the registration guide next year to create an Education pathway for students - The group was in agreement of the class being offered in person, so hopefully enough students register to run the class. Three teachers are also getting their Work Based Learning License so they can support internships in the pathway. Requested to do more activities for students to be working with local businesses. Looking at a grant to continue ServSafe Certifications for students at DEED. Guest Lesley Fahey with Pizza Karma shared their vision and is hosting a CTE student of the Month for ISD 728.

The advisory groups watched or had access to the [Flipping the College Paradigm](#) video. Focused on finding a student's career before deciding on a College/Major. If you have not seen it - I would encourage you to watch it.

Thank you to all our advisory members that make time to provide feedback on how to prepare students to be successful in your industries.

CTE Student of the Month

ERHS - Mackenzie Weber, Senior at Elk River was nominated for CTE student of the month by her DECA advisor and teacher, Ms. Weiler. Weiler shared that Mackenzie is a MN State DECA Officer, she is our Chapter President and was the head of our Elkepreneurs project (craft show student businesses) and is the backbone of our chapter.



Mackenzie shared the classes that have best prepared her for the future are the DECA classes at ERHS and her Introduction to Communication class at St. Cloud State University. Throughout her 4 years in DECA, she has developed better Communication and Public Speaking Skills. She said we all have strengths and weaknesses, she tries her best to push past her areas of weaknesses and let others only see her strengths. In the SCSU Class she enjoys the professor who has taught her about the cultural side of communication when living in a different country. This perspective has made an impact on how she develops stronger communication skills.

Mackenzie said "In the last year, as my Chapter President and VP of Communications for MN DECA, I have truly learned more about myself and how important time management is. I don't think as a leader there is one thing that I have really accomplished because being in a role of leadership means you're always helping others strive. Take for example, Elkepreneurs, I couldn't have made that project successful without my TEAM, we all had a role to play, and goals we wanted to reach, so thank you to my all my leadership team members and all you do."



Congratulations Mackenzie. Your commitment to "Be the Good" has earned you dinner! Pizza Karma is committed to its "Give Locally" campaign by recognizing outstanding "Be the Good" acts and has donated a certificate for you to treat your family to dinner!

Requests



Elk River Job Shadow Day for Juniors will be: December 16, 2021

If you are interested in hosting a student or two email: Matthew.Stueber@isd728.org

Include: Your name, company, career path & phone #/email for students to reach you.



Are you hiring?

We are always looking for internship opportunities for students. Please email me at amy.lord@isd728.org if you are interested in CTE Internships - paid, unpaid or project based. Also visit www.ISD728.org/CTE.

Family Consumer and Science Highlights:

Zimmerman High School Culinary Arts I Class each year has students plan a menu and create all the dishes they will enjoy for a Thanksgiving feast. They take two days to make all the desserts, sides and then enjoy their feast. This is a great life lesson on how to plan a menu, make a grocery list as well as reading recipes and using equipment correctly. It was a Happy Turkey Day.



Student Shoutout:



A special appreciation for Luke Rumreich, senior at ERHS for presenting to the Chamber Connections meeting last week about his experience in exploring careers, CTE classes and internships. Luke spoke about his OSHA 10 Certification along with learning valuable skills at his internship of problem solving and communications skills. He encouraged employers to consider interns as it is not only beneficial to students, gives back to the community but also builds their future workforce.

Recognition & Thank You!

Thank you to all the volunteers for making the first Mock Interview Day at Rogers High School a success!



Thank you to all the employers that opened their doors to Roger's High School Juniors for Job Shadowing. We know this year was a challenge with Covid restrictions and workers shortage so an extra special thank you for making it available. Job shadowing has helped many past students make decisions about their future.

We appreciated Dan Patnode, from Glenn Metalcraft (pictured with ZHS Interns), Melissa Fermoye, from Metal Craft and Megan Skendaj, from Vision Companies who spoke this last month to internship students about Employee Rights and Responsibilities, answered general HR questions and shared qualities they look for when promoting employees.



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