

## **Northeast Iowa Community College and 24 businesses hosted tours for high school students**

Northeast Iowa Community College and 24 business partners showcased the invaluable contributions of the manufacturing industry to the state of Iowa's economy this fall, by inviting high school students to tour their operations.

More than 220 high school students, some enrolled in the Career Learning Link program at the College, toured the facilities. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors from 19 high schools in the NICC district participated, according to Wendy Mihm-Herold, Ph.D., NICC vice president of business and community solutions.

"Northeast Iowa Community College partners with high schools and businesses to showcase high-demand, skilled advanced manufacturing occupations for high school students. Our concurrent enrollment partnerships with 24 high schools, and the development of career pathways and career academies, is identifying new 'earn and learn' options. By working directly with high schools and employers, we are enhancing northeast Iowa's talent pipeline," expressed Mihm-Herold.

The 24 manufacturers in northeast Iowa that hosted tours for students were: A.Y. McDonald Mfg., Alum-Line, Inc., Ashley Industrial Molding, Bodine Electric Co., Calmar Manufacturing Co., CaptiveAire, Donaldson Company, Inc., Geisler Brothers Co., Giese Manufacturing Co., Graphics Inc., Henderson Products and Hy-Vee. Additional manufacturers included Iowa Rotocast Plastics, John Deere, Kendrick Forest Products, Lansing Housing Products, Inc., MiEnergy, Paladin Attachments, Reel Core, Inc., Rockwell Collins, Stanley Engineered Fastening, Systems Equipment Corporation, Trinity Fabricators and XL Specialized Trailers.

In addition, high school teachers participated in Career and Technical Education teacher tours of four businesses in October in November. The 14 educators saw firsthand four different manufacturing operations and shared their observations with students in the high schools.