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Horace Mann



Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

Star of Innovation Award Application Form

School Name Sauk Centre Secondary Grade Levels 7-12
Name of School District Sauk Centre School District
Name of Principal Sheila Flatau
Application Submitted By Sheila Flatau
School Street Address 903 State Road
City, Zip Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Telephone Number 320-352-2258
MASSP Division Central
Name of Program Welding Careers in the Community

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet/s of paper.

- Description of the program.
- How has it impacted your school?
- What difficulties did you encounter in its implementation?
- What issue/s might another school encounter in replicating this program?
- Do you have any data to show the impact of this program? If so, please share it with us.

Applications must be submitted to MASSP offices by March 1.

PHONE: 612-361-1510 • FAX: 612-361-6340
MASSP • 2 Pine Tree Drive • Suite 380 • Arden Hills, MN 55112

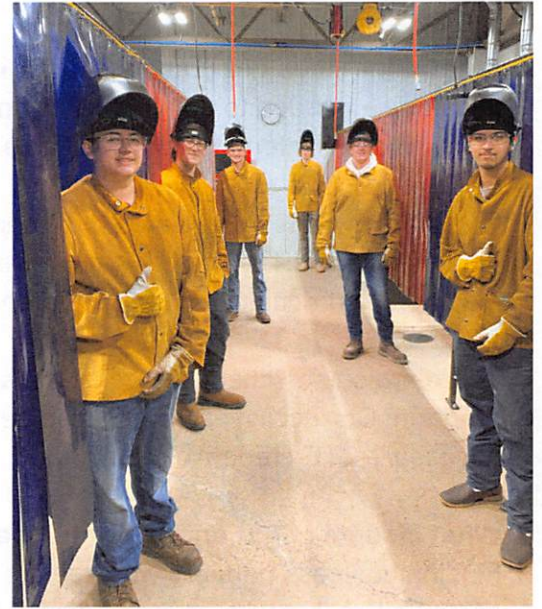
Questions? Please contact:
Bob Driver, Executive Director
612-361-6159

Sauk Centre Secondary Star of Innovation Program Application - 2024

Description of the program:

Welding Careers in the Community is for students in their junior or senior year who are interested in welding as a career or who want to take their welding skills to the professional level. Students will spend quarters 1 & 2 in the Felling Trailers welding lab learning the skills they need to help them be successful on the shop floor. Paid welding internship will be available to those who qualify quarters 3 & 4. Students will be expected to apply for the internships during the second quarter and go through an interview process just as they would to get hired as an employee. Many students who go through this program continue to work as employees for Felling Trailers.

This course is a partnership between Sauk Centre Secondary School and a local business named Felling Trailers. We provide a teacher to co-teach with an employee/trainer from Felling Trailers. They also provide a training lab with the current technology to learn industry level welding and how to be successful in the manufacturing industry. Students spend the last period of the day at Felling Trailers.



How has it impacted your school?

This class has established a strong partnership with Felling Trailers. They continue to donate equipment to our other CTE programs. Furthermore, as the community became more aware of this real world learning opportunity, it sparked interest in other local businesses to want to partner with Sauk Centre Secondary School. Since the start of this course in 2016-17, we also created additional partnerships for learning outside of the traditional classroom.

In 2019-2020, we began the Western Stearns Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (WSCEO) class that is almost fully funded by local businesses. It is also a collaboration between three school districts as we offer the class to students who are juniors or seniors from Sauk Centre, Melrose, and Albany. The WSCEO class is a unique partnership among three communities that allows students to learn off campus about area businesses. Students get a variety of business tours and develop business skills by planning a fundraising event and developing their own businesses. This class is worthy of a Star of Innovation application itself, but I wasn't sure how to do that since it includes three schools/districts.

Next year, we are starting two more classes that include community partnerships. The first is Healthcare Careers in the Community. This is a partnership with CentraCare and will allow junior or senior students to participate in nine different week-long internship/job shadow experiences at the clinic, hospital, or nursing home. The other is a partnership with our Chamber of Commerce. This



Community Ambassador class will give students a social studies credit for attending meetings of various civic groups and volunteering for local events.

What difficulties did you encounter in its implementation?

Initially, we needed to do more recruiting to get students interested in taking the class. We now typically have more students interested than are able to participate as the training lab is capped at 12 students.

Some time needs to be devoted to properly setting up the course. We had a series of meetings with the leadership of Felling Trailers so that we had a shared vision. We also paid our teacher to do a 40 hour externship/curriculum writing partnership with the co-instructor that is the Felling Trailers employee.

There are some scheduling constraints that need to be addressed when you attach teacher time to an off-site program. Correct licensure can also be a difficulty, but we were fortunate that our instructor already had the necessary CTE credentials.

What issue/s might another school encounter in replicating this program?

Finding business partners who see the value in an investment like this may be a challenge in other communities, but with so many employee shortages, I suspect there will be plenty who see the opportunity for their own workforce. The scheduling of the course seems to work best at the end of the day, so that could be a limiting factor for some schools if it is competing against other popular options. We run a 5 period day (70 minutes) so this works for one period. Schools on a 7 period day may need to allot 2 periods to an off-campus experience like this.

Do you have any data to show the impact of this program? If so, please share it with us.

- 67 students have participated in this class (2016-17 through present day)
- 37% have been hired by Felling Trailers for a period of time
- 12% of all students who participated in this program are currently hired by Felling Trailers
 - 4 graduated students are currently employed as welders
 - 4 current students are employed as Welding Interns
- Felling Trailers was approved as a Youth Service Training Employer through the MN Department of Labor and Industry in 2021