



## Assemble ur Career Tour-2018

The weather report called for rain changing to snow and dropping temperatures. After five days of spring-like weather, one would think that the students would be bummed out. However, enthusiasm ran high for the students participating in the fifth annual "Assemble ur Career Tour" on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The DeKalb students numbered 42 strong with elements of Mr. Elliott's and Mrs. Holtz's classes. They were off to visit S K Handtools LLC, part of the IDEAL Group and Tate and Lyle, a world-wide blender of food additives. It had been about four years since a DeKalb group visited SK and the students were ready with wide-eyes and good questions. As for Tate and Lyle, DeKalb students had never been invited to tour this facility and they were impressed with the operation as well as the treats offered at the end of the tour.

Here are some pictures of the SK tour as supplied by the folks at the Daily Chronicle.



Sycamore High School also toured Aligus Packaging and got a great look into the world of plastic packaging. While Aligus also has a thermofoaming operation in DeKalb, our concentration was the equipment building operation on Peace Road. There, vendors world-wide are supplied with machines that allow them to package their products, ready for consumer sales and use. Steve Wallace and his team are great hosts and explain the wide variety of opportunities that are available within the company.

By coincidence, the folks at Aligus had a new shredding machine in operation, used to prepare their waste plastic for recycling. It just so happens that the machine in use was built at the next stop by Jack Cress and his team of expert machinists and assemblers.

Cresswood is a world-wide supplier of shredding equipment used by industry to prepare their scrap for enter into the recycling market. Jack has been a master machinist for many years and Cresswood was preceded by Dun-Rite Tool and Machine doing a wide variety of business with local industry and in particular the printing industry. Students got to see the combination of old and new equipment, producing a quality product for industry.

[https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;\\_ylt=A0LEVw7mcplahPQATSZXNy0A;\\_ylu=X3oDMTByMjB0aG5zBGnVbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw--?p=cresswood+shredder&fr=mcafee#id=21&vid=f0d3c902bdd37a216092140945e3c7ca&action=view](https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;_ylt=A0LEVw7mcplahPQATSZXNy0A;_ylu=X3oDMTByMjB0aG5zBGnVbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw--?p=cresswood+shredder&fr=mcafee#id=21&vid=f0d3c902bdd37a216092140945e3c7ca&action=view)

Meanwhile, Rochelle Township students were visiting E. D. Etyre, an international supplier of road building equipment. This long-time resident of Oregon, IL uses local talent to build industry leading equipment. Starting out in agriculture, the company soon jumped into the road equipment market. Tank trucks and trailers are custom created for markets around the world. Some creations look normal, while others make a road worthy eighteen wheelers look tiny. The laws of each state and each country have different limitations and Etyre makes sure their equipment meets the needs of their customers and complies with the law.



Here are a couple pictures of the RTHS students, the first truck and a shop picture.

The tour culminated at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, where Chris Blumoff from IMEC and Anita Zurbrugg of DCCF talked to the students about career paths and “Essential Skills” necessary to compete in today’s job market.

Chris relates well to the students who might not see a clear path to their future. As a student-athlete, a traveler and a person who enjoyed lots of different hobbies, Chris did not fare well in his first attempt in college. Instead he joined the Marines and served his country in the Communications Command Centers. After the military, Chris got an associates degree and worked at Honeywell, where he blossomed into an electronic innovator and world service representative. Once again, Chris needed a challenge, so he joined the Ranier Door Company, where he earned patents with his electronic innovations. Finally, Chris joined the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, where he helps companies see new and different ways of manufacturing.

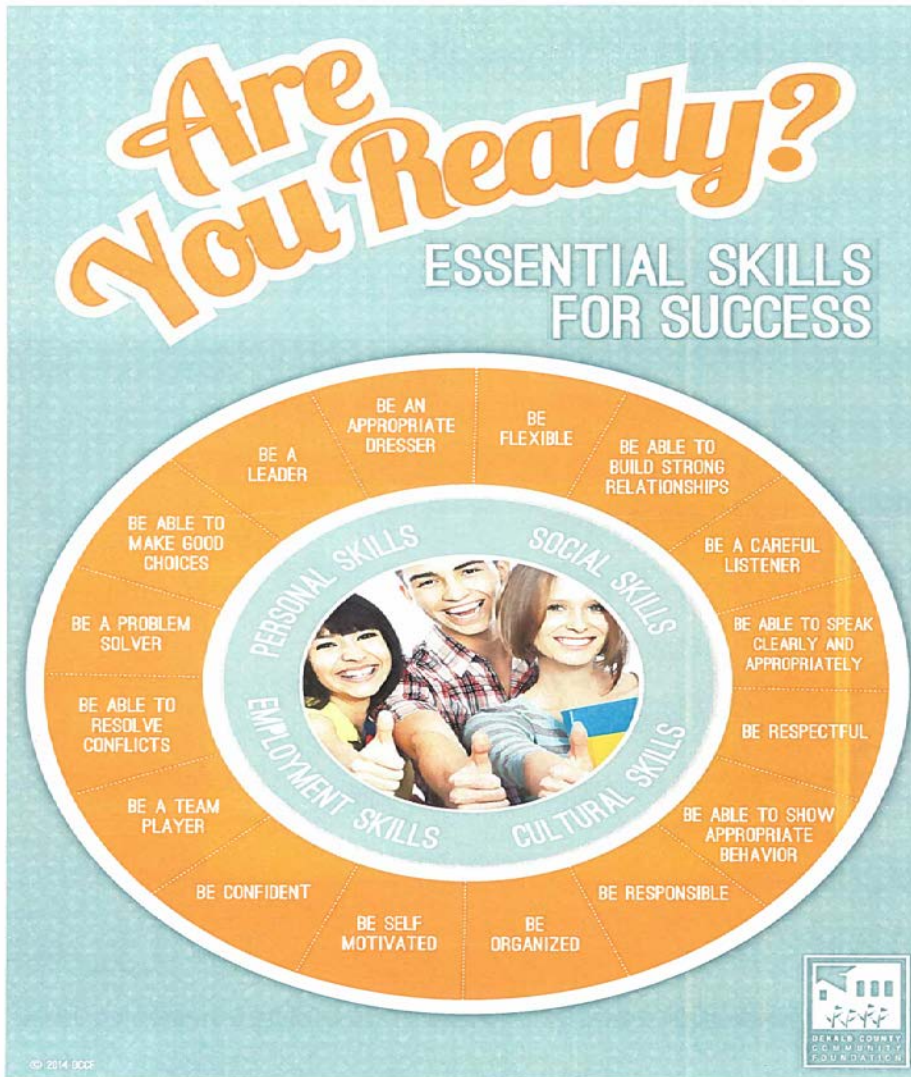
Here's Anita, talking to the students about their "Essential Skills."



Similar to Chris, Anita Zurbrugg grew up in agriculture, entered into the teaching profession and managed a work/study program for students that really didn't see college in their future. Now Anita manages the grants available for area groups needing financial support. That's a long way from the farm.

Life changes priorities, career paths and some opportunities look like they are worth a try, but one thing that never changes are the essential skills necessary to interact with all age groups and positions. Anita challenged the students to pick two attributes to work on to prepare for their adventure into the "working world."

Below is the “Wheel of Essential Skills.” How do you measure up?



The students were then treated to a delicious pizza lunch from Hy-Vee. Twenty-five pizzas, gone in a flash. Oh, to be young and able to ingest so many calories....

Many thanks to Greg Milburg at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and his capable assistant Tom, who smooths out the bumps in technology. Thanks again to our wonderful hosts, SK Handtools, LLC; Tate and Lyle; Albus Packaging and Cresswood, who open their doors and share their unique stories to the students who are visiting. To our business leaders, who accompany the tours, Dan Stump and Ed Kuhn, thanks a million for supplying information and leadership to our youth. Thanks to my friends Dave Elliott and Tina Holtz for taking a day out of class to help guide students into the world of work. Our presenters, Anita Zurbrugg and Chris Blumoff, who bring another perspective to careers, education and the changing world that we live in and to Sara Rutzky and Paul Borek for supporting the DeKalb/Ogle Wrokforce Development Consortium.

Best;

Gene Fogle

Workforce Development Coordinator for D.O.W.D.C