

Annual tour reveals career opportunities for students

By **KATIE FINLON**
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SYCAMORE – Sycamore High School junior Frances Helton said she always has been a music lover – so much so that her family and friends have encouraged her to pursue job or internship opportunities with companies that work behind the scenes of those types of shows.

After touring Upstaging Inc., 821 Park Ave., with her classmates and learning more about what the company does, including lighting for shows of all sizes, Helton plans on applying for a job or internship.

“This definitely lived up to the hype,” Helton, 17, of Sycamore said.

More than a dozen Sycamore High School students toured the lighting, trucking and production services business Friday as part of the countywide Heavy Metal Tour.

Gene Fogle, industrial workforce coordinator for the DeKalb Ogle Workforce Development Consortium through the DeKalb County Economic Development Corp., said more than 100 students from DeKalb High School,



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Quentin Robertson (left), lighting technician at Upstaging Inc., opens a large automated moving light for a group of Sycamore High School students Friday in Sycamore during the Heavy Metal Tour.

Sycamore High School, Genoa-Kingston High School and Rochelle Township High School spent Friday touring

local businesses to learn more about careers within trades, engineering and business. Other businesses that stu-

dents toured in DeKalb County included Ideal Industries, 3M, CST Industries, Adient and Dawn Equipment Company.

Fogle said the tour’s goal is to reach out to kids to find out what interests them or what they’ve heard about. He said involving local businesses such as Upstaging really helps students see that they can get involved in stage and lighting effects for touring groups that travel all over the world.

“That immediately gets a kid interested,” Fogle said.

Fogle said the tour started six years ago in partnership with Kishwaukee College to give students more exposure about what careers they could get into and what educational or apprenticeship opportunities may exist to better their chances for those kinds of jobs. He said students may be a little more familiar with police and fire careers along with becoming a doctor, for example, but they might know much about other careers beyond that, including within the business world.

“Hopefully, we can better connect the dots between them and jobs and what’s required,” Fogle said.



The Arts at NIU

MUSIC

niu.edu/music

- Oct. 21 **Cor Cantiamo**, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 21 **Swing Dance**,
Altgeld Hall Auditorium, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 22 **Composers Concert**, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 24 **Wind Symphony**, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 5 **Avalon String Quartet**, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 6 **All-University Jazz Band**, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 8 **New Music Ensemble Concert**,
8 p.m.
- Nov. 11 **NIU Steelband**, 3 p.m.

THEATRE

niu.edu/theatre

- Performances Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.**
- Oct. 24-28 **The Importance of Being Earnest**, by Oscar Wilde
- Oct. 31-Nov. 4 **Bakkhai**, By Euripedes (translation by Anne Carson)

ART

niu.edu/art

- NIU Art Museum – niu.edu/artmuseum
Transparent Factors in Form and Content and Vanishing Art from Myanmar: The Buddhist Reverse Glass Painting Traditions. Both open Nov. 15
- School of Art and Design – niu.edu/art
High School Art Invitational, Jack Olson Gallery, Nov. 5–17

A look at what’s coming up!
For a full schedule of events and ticket information:
go.niu.edu/arts



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