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Sumter Students Commemorate Manufacturing Month during October

[Bushnell, Florida] – October is National Manufacturing Month and students in Sumter County Schools participated in activities to commemorate this exciting career field and learn about expanding job opportunities in manufacturing in the region. Student career education activities such as these continue to fulfill the district’s vision that every student would graduate enrolled in a college, enlisted in service, or employed in a career.

Greenheck Group Industry Tour

South Sumter High School and Wildwood Middle High School students were invited to Greenheck Group (formerly known as Metal Industries) for a tour of this expanding manufacturing facility. Nearly 50 students traveled to the Greenheck Group Bushnell site and were shown the innovative technologies used to manufacture the components developed, manufactured and marketed by the plant. Students observed firsthand the use of machinery and manufacturing technology to creating manufactured metal products, met with plant managers and employers, and explored job opportunities that may be available for them in the future. The company also sponsored a delicious lunch for the students.

Made In Florida Expo

Additionally, a team of 4 students from South Sumter Middle School competed in the Made In Central Florida Expo challenge on October 24th, 2023 at the Orange County Convention Center. Student team members were Travis Taylor, Warren Draper, Brayden Lamb, and James Truss. The team spent several weeks planning, constructing, testing and iterating a Rube Goldberg invention to take to the competition. A Rube Goldberg machine, named after American cartoonist Rube Goldberg, is a chain reaction–type machine or contraption intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way. The team sponsor and coding/STEM instructor Tiffany Ward stated “Our students had a great experience and learned about the manufacturing industry, as well as college and career opportunities. A special thank you to our team sponsors Craig and Karen Estep for funding the supplies and trip expenses. We would also like to thank Mr. Studebaker and Mr. Ward for helping with the construction of the board frame and Mrs. Jeanna Harris for putting the final touches on our team shirts.”

About the Expo

The Made in Central Florida Expo is a dynamic platform that bridges the gap between the manufacturing industry and the future workforce. It's not just an event; it's a movement that aims to ignite curiosity, foster connections, and drive the growth of our local manufacturing ecosystem. By bringing together manufacturers, students, high school guidance counselors, educators, and industry partners, the expo is cultivating a vibrant community that will shape the future of Central Florida's manufacturing landscape.

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Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a modern approach to higher education and training, and it can accelerate personal and professional success. With little to no barriers to enrollment and 17 career pathways to choose from, individuals can acquire the skills needed through real-world, hands-on experience. As teachers prepare CTE students for their future careers as skilled professionals, students engage in hands-on learning with real life applications. These approaches to teaching are linked to greater understanding, comprehension, and retention. CTE offers a way for students to gain skills and earn certifications in some of Florida’s most critical and desirable industries. Unlike traditional higher education, CTE programs can set individuals on the right path in less time with less cost. That means they can get into a career today without the worry of debt tomorrow.

*For more information about **Sumter County Schools**, call **352-793-2315**. For more information about Career and Technical Education in Florida, visit GetThereFL.com.*



South Sumter High School and Wildwood Middle High School students who toured the Greenheck Group (Metal Industries) manufacturing site in Bushnell as a part of the district' commemoration of Manufacturing Month.



*South Sumter Middle School students who competed in the Rube Goldberg device Competition at the Made In Central Florida Expo: (left to right): **Travis Taylor, Warren Draper, Brayden Lamb, and James Truss.***