

News Release

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Skilled Trades Day provides hands-on career options for Arlington students

ARLINGTON- More than a dozen local businesses and organizations showed middle and high school students some different career options during the first-annual Skilled Trades Day at Arlington High School on April 19. The businesses showed off equipment and products they use on a daily basis like a crane, hay harvester, front loader and semi-truck.

“When we reached out to local businesses to pitch the idea of the Skilled Trades Day, they were very supportive of the idea,” said Amie Verellen-Grubbs, Arlington Public Schools’ Director of Career Readiness and Innovative Programs. “It’s great to have a community that’s so supportive of our students and career and technical education.”

There’s a lot of demand for skilled trade jobs which is why many of the businesses gave up a day’s work to attend the event.

“If they want a job where they can drive a big rig, they just need a commercial driver’s license which takes six to eight weeks to obtain,” said Jason Byle with Three Rivers Cutting. “I don’t think a lot of students know these jobs are available and that they’re jobs they can make a living at. There’s a huge demand for these jobs as the workforce ages.”

“We’ve found that industry jobs in agriculture really teach students a good work ethic,” said Andrew Albert with Andrews Hay. “Even if they decide not to stay in the industry, it looks great on their resume.”

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"We know that not all students will attend a university and this event shows them that there are other career paths open to them that don't require a university degree and still provide a very good salary," said Verellen-Grubbs.

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