

Teaming Up for EDUCATION



2016 WASB Business Honor Roll highlights strong business/education partners

Each year, through the WASB Business Honor Roll, the WASB helps school districts recognize businesses that provide support to their local schools. This article features some of the impressive school-business partnerships included on the 2016 WASB Business Honor Roll.

Kiel Area School District

AMEREQUIP

Teaming for a Brighter Tomorrow

Mental illness, addiction, depression, and other mental health issues are becoming an important area of focus for school districts. However, it can be hard for some districts to address these issues by themselves. The Kiel Area School District and Amerequip,

a manufacturing company, are working together to ensure students are successful in school and in life.

Mike VanderZanden, president and CEO of Amerequip, contacted the district with a vision to come together as a community. He developed a campaign called Teaming for a Brighter Tomorrow to create a comprehensive network of programs to assist students with the challenges they face.

One of the resulting programs is

Challenge Day — a one-day, school leadership program designed to build empathy and connection between students and staff through the celebration of diversity, truth and expression. With Amerequip's support, the school district has held a Challenge Day for the past four years. Around 600 students have gone through the training.

“Financially, there's no way we could have funded Challenge Day alone,” said Louise Blankenheim, superintendent.

Challenge Day is just the beginning. Through the Teaming for a Brighter Future campaign, other community members have stepped

**“It's like the saying, ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’
We've always known that but it's really cool to see it in action.”**

— Katie Thibeault, a social studies teacher, Kiel Area School District



Teachers participate in Challenge Day in the Kiel Area School District.



Mike VanderZanden (center), president and CEO of Amerequip, is recognized by Dan Dietrich (right), Kiel school board vice president, and Todd Olig (left), Kiel school board member.

in and provided support to the district. Susan Beatty, who runs Pathways for a Better Life, a local organization that provides alcohol and drug treatment services, has done six workshops for the school district on a variety of issues including, addiction and depression.

Katie Thibeault, a social studies teacher, said the Teaming for a Brighter Tomorrow work has opened

the doors of the school to people who can help the district.

“We’re bringing the experts in the community together for a goal and the goal is to counteract mental health and addiction challenges,” she said.

“It’s like the saying, ‘It takes a village to raise a child,’” Thibeault said. “We’ve always known that but it’s really cool to see it in action.”

Waterloo School District

LANNYO’S PIGGLY WIGGLY

New Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

Arranging employment for students with significant disabilities can be a greater challenge for smaller districts where there are a limited number of job opportunities. Thanks to a partnership between the Waterloo School District and Lannoy’s Piggly Wiggly, a special education student is getting work experience and others are learning life skills.

“The concept of community-based employment for adults with significant disabilities is not a new one, but it is new to Waterloo,” said Connie Dettmer, director of special education. “Thanks to Pamela Lannoy and her employees at



Waterloo student Eric Mason gains work experience at Lannoy's Piggly Wiggly.

Lannoy's Piggly Wiggly, it has become a reality."

One special education student, Eric Mason, works several hours a week at the grocery store and others visit the store to shop and learn skills to become self-sufficient.

Dettmer said Eric has been well received.

"He is happy to go to work," she said. "He loves the routine and clear expectations, and is told that he is appreciated and valued. He is a part of a wonderful team of employees

who greet him and seem glad to have him as a fellow worker."

While only one student works at the grocery store, Dettmer said their partnership may help open the doors to other opportunities for her students.

"It has helped me to be a better spokesperson for my students, and other businesses are following their lead," she said. "It has also helped to pave the way for other businesses in the community to consider employing students with disabilities."

In addition to providing support to the district's special education students, the grocery store has long provided support to the district through various donations.

"They've been very supportive of our schools and students for many years," said Brian Henning, superintendent. "They've done a lot for the community."



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“We’ve been in the community a long time and we want to see it continue to grow and develop.”

— David Marten, vice-president of Marten Machining

Stevens Point Area Public School District

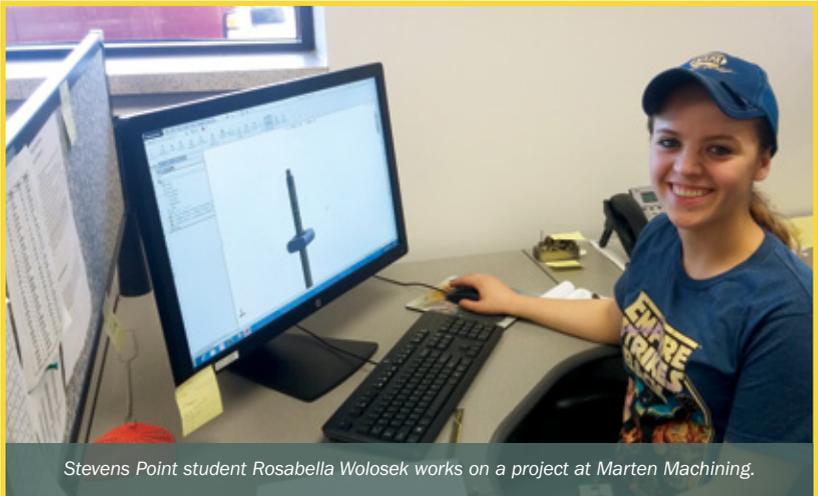
MARTEN MACHINING

Boosting Manufacturing and Engineering Opportunities

For about the past 20 years, Alan Marten, owner of Marten Machining, has supported the youth apprenticeship program at Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH). Over the years, Marten Machining has provided manufacturing equipment to the school, work experience for students, and much more.

Brigitta Altmann-Austin, director of the SPASH career center, told one story that illustrates Marten Machining’s dedication to the school. The company purchased a large, top-of-the-line HAAS CNC milling machine for high school students to fabricate parts. However, the machine was so large that they knew it wouldn’t fit through the doors. So Marten Machining covered the cost of widening the classroom’s doors. Alan Marten was also on hand to help when the complex piece of machinery was delivered.

“He was here from the time it arrived to the time it was set-up on the floor,” Altmann-Austin said.



Stevens Point student Rosabella Wolosek works on a project at Marten Machining.

In addition to donating and purchasing manufacturing equipment for the high school, Marten Machining also employs and mentors students who are interested in manufacturing and engineering careers. Students who work at the company get real-world experience working at the high-tech company where medical equipment and devices are manufactured for the health care industry.

“It’s a really good opportunity for our students to work at a place like that,” Altmann-Austin said.

David Marten, vice-president of Marten Machining and the son of Alan Marten, said that some stu-

dents who started as youth apprentices in high school have now worked for the company as long as 12 years. This kind of partnership with the school benefits the students, company and community.

“We’ve been in the community a long time and we want to see it continue to grow and develop,” Marten said. “This is one way to help the community grow.”

“They are supportive of our schools and community,” Altmann-Austin said. “They are doing their part to make it a top-notch community while supporting the schools that will supply them with future employees.”

Howard-Suamico School District

INITIATIVE ONE

Training and Support for School Leaders

About three years ago, Fred and Tracy Johnson, owners of Initiative One, a leadership institute that provides training and support to leaders, moved their company's headquarters from Arizona to Green

Bay. Damian LaCroix, superintendent of the Howard-Suamico School District, became friends with the Johnsons and that friendship quickly turned into a valuable partnership for the district.

The school district has benefited directly by making use of Initiative One's expertise and training opportunities. In the first year of the partnership, the district's entire leadership team was invited to take Initiative One's year-long executive

leadership coaching class. The training helped reenergize the district leadership team with a focus on positive accountability, establishing boundaries, decision making, and enacting positive change.

"Our school administrators are under a barrage of expectations, they are expected to be almost perfect," Fred Johnson said. "We have seen a real need among them to replenish the 'well' and reinstall a sense of purpose and a

2016 WASB Business Honor Roll

The following businesses have been nominated by their partner school districts to the WASB Business Honor Roll. For descriptions of each partnership, visit wasb.org. Select "Communications" and then "Business Honor Roll."

Clintonville Public School District

Erickson Home Medical Equipment

Fort Atkinson School District

Fireside Dinner Theatre

Capn's Roadhouse

Spacesaver Corporation

MK Cellular

Hillsboro School District

Hillsboro Equipment

Royal Bank

Gundersen St. Joseph's Hospital and Clinics

Farmers State Bank

Howard-Suamico School District

Initiative One

Kiel Area School District

Amerequip

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District

Docter Evergreens

Copps Food Center

UPS Store of Middleton

Middleton Optimist Club

Middleton Endowment

Mineral Point Unified School District

Farmers State Bank

Kristen Mitchell Design

Mound City Bank

Point Foods

See-Mor Grain

Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District

Callen Construction

Oak Creek Plumbing

Dairyland Energy Solutions

PPG Industries

River Valley School District

Royal Bank

The Peoples Community Bank

Home News

WRCO

Hometown Market

Slinger School District

Weld-Fab Manufacturing

Stevens Point Area Public School District

Marten Machining

Turtle Lake School District

Sanmina

Infinity Retail Sales

Dairy State Bank

Waterloo School District

Lannoy's Piggly Wiggly



Fred and Tracy Johnson, owners of Initiative One, help support the Howard-Suamico School District's Upward Together campaign.



Initiative One helped support fundraising events such as this one at the Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo.

“What [Initiative One] has done for our district and the community has been very impressive. We’re really fortunate ...”

— Damian LaCroix, superintendent of the Howard-Suamico School District

much higher focus on things that they can control.”

LaCroix said the district’s leadership team responded to the training. The goal is to help support school

leaders, who in turn support the district’s staff and, ultimately, students.

“When a leader improves, everyone benefits,” LaCroix said.

The partnership continues this year as Initiative One facilitates the district’s strategic planning process. The district is also looking at offering the leadership training to some of its students.

In addition to the leadership work, Initiative One has helped the district’s Upward Together campaign, which has a goal of raising \$3.5 million to enhance school facilities, expand staff resources, and enhance student learning opportunities. Tracy Johnson serves on the campaign’s cabinet and has helped raise funds for the district.

The company opened new headquarters in downtown Green Bay and, in the process, helped revitalize a portion of the downtown.

“What they have done for our district and the community has been very impressive,” LaCroix said. “We’re really fortunate to have them as partners.” ■



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