

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 214 RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CAREER-RELATED EDUCATION AND EXPOSURE

ROLLING MEADOWS – Today, Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community Board (ICCB), visited Rolling Meadows High School to recognize High School District 214 for excellence in early career-related education and career exploration opportunities. The visit was part of a statewide tour to unveil the ICCB’s Workforce Education Strategic Plan and highlight best practices across the state in workforce training.

Anderson was joined by Superintendent Dr. David Schuler who discussed how District 214 has developed innovative partnerships with the community college system to provide all students with career and educational experiences related to the workforce.

District 214’s robust Career Pathways program provides all students with rigorous academic courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and personalized and career-specific learning experiences.

The program gives students exposure to coursework directly related to a future career that can lead to an industry credential, allowing them to be immediately employable upon graduation. It also guarantees that students who choose one of the 16 Career Clusters in the program by the end of their sophomore year receive hands-on workplace learning experiences, such as internships, that enable them to explore their career interests while still in high school.

“High school graduation cannot be an endpoint,” said Schuler. “We know we are part of the cradle-to-careers pipeline and that our Career Pathways program leads to the next step, whether it be enrolling in college, entering the military or going straight into the workforce.”

“I am astounded that over the last six years District 214 students have logged over 2 million hours in workplace learning experiences, many through partnerships with community colleges,” said Anderson. “District 214’s collaboration with community college and business partners to facilitate earlier student engagement in career exploration, hands-on training, internships, and dual credit programs is a model for community colleges, business and K-12 partnerships across the state.”

The Workforce Education Strategic Plan will expand and enhance Illinois’ ability to attract, retrain and grow business and develop educational opportunities to support students’ success in the workforce. The plan is the culmination of regional meetings held in each of the state’s ten economic development regions with partners from across the education, economic development, and workforce sectors. The resulting plan identified four priority areas to be addressed over the next five years. These areas are:

1. Increase Early Career-Related Education and Exposure
2. Address Essential and Occupational Skill Gaps
3. Align Education and Training Programs to Employers’ needs
4. Strengthen Connections Among Public Partners and Engagement and Alignment with Business

For more information, including a copy of the Workforce Education Strategic Plan, visit <http://www.iccb.org/workforce>.

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