



2016-17 Rogers Public Schools' Career and Technical Education Update

The 2016-2017 school year holds unlimited potential for the students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses within the Rogers Public Schools. Each day brings opportunities for students to learn about various career options, the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that will help prepare them for future success within the workplace and/or post-secondary education, and opportunities to learn more about the industry and jobs that are available within the local area, across the nation, and around the world.

Helping Students Gain Insight

Northwest Arkansas offers several ways for students to learn more about different types of workplace environments, as well as connections to global work environments. Students gain insight into the new types of jobs that are designed to help facilitate communication, technology, and productivity of both local and global companies, including collaboration with colleagues around the world. As students explore various career fields and begin preparing for the transition to the career field or college campus following high school graduation, it is important to introduce students to the jobs that exist today and anticipated jobs of the future workplace.

Advanced Manufacturing Program

STEM-related concepts and advanced technology have had a significant impact on many jobs within the different industry sectors and has been a catalyst for the transition from manual to automated processes and production. Unlike thirty years ago, today's manufacturing facilities often include equip-

ment that requires technical skills relating to programming and diagnostics in addition to knowledge of manual machines and tools. The Rogers Public Schools' Advanced Manufacturing program offers courses that include skills relating to machine tools, CNC mills and lathes, and industrial robotics. Providing field trips to local manufacturing facilities will help students make connections between the skills gained within the classroom environment and those that are applied within the workplace environment.

UAMS Health Science Program

Health Science occupations often require technical skills that relate to computerized equipment, robotics, and programming to perform medical tests and process results. This year, the district will offer students an opportunity to participate in a UAMS Health Science program that will provide learning experiences in medical and health science careers, including field experiences in a hospital setting. Introducing students to the skills required for jobs today and preparing them for the skills needed for jobs in the future are an integral part of career and technical education.

CTE Impacts Students' Career Choices

One of the goals of the CTE department this year is to provide relevant and authentic opportunities for students and teachers to learn more about the local businesses and industries in Rogers, as well as the products, services, manufacturing, and skilled trades that are offered and/or provided by each of the companies. Research indicates that participating in CTE courses and career and work-related experiences have a significant impact on a student's career

choice. The experiences also help students formulate a plan for acquiring the knowledge and skills that are required for them to reach their career goals. Students may often recognize many of the local companies, however, they may not always have knowledge of what the company produces, the types of jobs that each offer or their contributions to the local, national, and global economies.

Can Your Company Help with Student Field Trips?

The CTE department has received funding this year to provide career and work-related experiences for students enrolled within the CTE courses, including field trips to visit local businesses, hosting guest speakers within the classroom, job shadowing experiences, seminars and conferences, opportunities for students to attend business sponsored events, experiences to learn more about non-traditional jobs and careers, and to enable students to participate in training offered by local companies. During the upcoming weeks, the department is looking forward to contacting companies within Rogers and the surrounding area to schedule field trips for student groups to visit and learn more about local businesses/industries. The department also looks forward to partnering with local companies to introduce students to apprenticeship programs that are available within the skilled trades areas such as construction, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC following high school graduation. Companies interested in partnering with the district to offer career and work-related experiences for students in 6-12th grade may contact Dawn Stewart at (479) 636-3910 to schedule an event.

Meet the Chamber's Economic Development Team



Steve Cox, Senior Vice President of Economic Development, started work at the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce in 2011. He has witnessed first-hand the positive effects that hard work has on successful economic development.

"The Chamber and its economic development team work hard every day to help create an environment that continues to make Rogers and Northwest Arkansas one of the best places in the country to live and work. New and expanding businesses creating jobs puts more money into the economy and increases the quality of life for residents in our community. During my career, I have had the privilege of working with businesses from the dream stage to large expansions and everything in between, and have seen how it helps people better their lives, the lives of their employees, and their families. We're delivering on our promise that our community is a place Where Possible Lives."



Karen Wagaman recently joined the Chamber staff as the Vice President of Downtown Development. She focuses on advancing the Downtown Rogers Initiative Plan. Her role is to attract investment and create energy and excitement around making Rogers the most vibrant downtown community in Northwest Arkansas. She works closely with partner organizations, developers, property owners, financial institutions and other stakeholders to highlight the best Downtown Rogers has to offer and assist the historic core of our city in realizing its full potential.

"It's exciting for me to be able to focus on the historic core of our city. Downtown Rogers has such a great foundation with walkable business and residential districts, cycling trails and parks, and the lure of the newly renovated Lake Atalanta park area and brand new Downtown Rogers Farmers Market. We are blessed with excellent restaurants, food trucks and entertainment venues popping up in the midst of attractive and competitively priced retail, office and residential space. We're seeing a new burst of excitement as the investment in downtown builds momentum and continues to grow."