

Counselors tour local businesses

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FREMONT – Local manufacturers opened their doors to high school and middle school guidance counselors and principals for the 4-County Career Showcase, an event that puts workforce development, career preparation and skilled-trade opportunities front and center.

The showcase was Oct. 24 for 60 local school participants from the nine countywide school systems. The four counties included Erie, Huron, Ottawa and Sandusky. Each county tailored its events a little differently, but all have a student career-focus.

Sandusky County's event is organized by Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation with sponsorship from American Electric Power Ohio and The Bellevue Hospital.

Guidance counselors and principals were escorted by a charter bus to six locations and had the opportunity to meet with employees, directors, managers and human resources representatives.

They discussed a wide variety of employment opportunities that companies are recruiting for as well as gained a firsthand understanding of how manufacturing has evolved into a cutting-edge industry that desperately needs the right people.

The bus tour included stops in Bellevue (Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers Inc.), Clyde (Revere Plastics System and Whirlpool — Clyde Division) and Fremont (Freeman Company and Green Bay Packaging Inc.).

Lunches were prepared and served by the culinary students of Vanguard Career Center.

After lunch, a representative of the Sandusky County Human Resource Managers Association addressed interview skills, and the school provided actual tours of the electrical, mechanical and welding student labs.

Company representatives shared with counselors how basic workplace skills such as interviewing will help students succeed.