

Pathways to Prosperity

Sharing Resources to Prepare Students in the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway

The Missouri Pathways for Prosperity Initiative is all about finding creative ways to meet the needs of students as they prepare for a career in a high demand, high wage pathway. When Ferguson Florissant School District started planning to implement the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway for their three high schools, they realized their welding equipment was inadequate to prepare students with the skills needed for a career in today's world of advanced manufacturing. Jay Boleach, CTE Coordinator for Ferguson Florissant School District, approached Jim Hieger, Assistant Principal of North County Technical School, to see if there was a way to share resources to prepare the students enrolled in the Ferguson Florissant Advanced Manufacturing program. Jay and Jim soon arrived at a solution that was a "win, win" for both schools.

David Goetz, Ferguson Florissant Advanced Manufacturing teacher, and Jim Sheppard, North County Tech Welding teacher, aligned their curriculum and developed a schedule for David's students to travel to North County Tech on buses already going to North County Tech. Jim and Dave swapped students during the two-week sessions. Jim taught Dave's students how to weld while Dave prepared Jim's students for the OSHA 10 certification as well as the forklift certification.

Sharing resources meant that the Ferguson Florissant Advanced Manufacturing students developed welding skills on up to date equipment and at the same time students from both schools earned two Industry Recognized Credentials -- OSHA 10 Certification and Forklift Certification.

The Ferguson Florissant students recently showed some of their projects to Gail Stewart, St. Louis Regional Director for Pathways to Prosperity, and posed for a group picture.