



Earlier in the school year, 17 River Valley High School students participated in an event hosted by the Operating Engineers Local 139 in Coloma, Wisconsin, in Waushara County to learn firsthand about careers from industry professionals. The students were given opportunities to meet these industry professionals and future employers in Wisconsin specific to operating engineers.

In general, we are noticing many regional employers who are reaching out to high schools and are taking the idea of training and building apprenticeships very seriously. The highly equipped facility in Coloma is an example of a tremendous resource for union members wanting to create and share the latest developments in their field of work. In this example, areas such as crane operation, soil boring, excavating, dozing, welding and equipment maintenance were discussed and featured. Interestingly, some industries have started paying apprentices to entice them to consider their field of employment right out of high school.

It is the task of the River Valley High School to find experiences (such as the one featured in the photo) to help our students make a connection from their education to a future job interest—and then offer experiences to help provide a career seeking path for the individual. This supports the goal of making sure that students are career, college, or community ready when they graduate. We must progress as a district as the employers and industries around us progress.

It is never too early for a student to start thinking about what the future might look like. For our students in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11, January is the month to consider classes in next year's school path. Administrators, teachers, and school counselors continue to build creative, extensive offerings in our rural district to provide opportunities for our students.

If we want our students to graduate from our institution with dreams of excelling and staying in Wisconsin, we have to be engaged in reality and offer them solutions to their future needs. The

course handbook at River Valley High School ([found on our website here](#)) includes incredible elective offerings in the following: agriculture, art, business, computer science, engineering, music, physical education, health, technology education, and world languages (as well as the courses offered in English, Social Studies, Science, and Math). You should be very proud that we have retained a variety of courses for the River Valley graduate with incredible staff to facilitate these classes. River Valley continues to lead!

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District