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The BUZZ

Nebraska's Dream! Do! Newsletter

Helping students understand global challenges and education paths to obtain skills that lead to good paying careers in manufacturing and related businesses.

January 2012

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ROBOTICS EXPO HELPS YOUTH PREPARE FOR FUTURE



A young girl tries her hand at surgery. The device above demonstrates the future of surgery. Using a similar device doctors can make smaller incisions and reduce chances of infection and/or errors.

More than 300 students from 27 Nebraska elementary, middle and high schools participated in the Nebraska Robotics Expo on February 18th at the Strategic Air and Space Museum.

First LEGO League and CEENBoT Robotics partnered together to put on the event. Youth aged 9-14 are challenged to design and build robots giving them fundamental skills. They work for weeks or months to configure programming systems for the robots to master the controls to prepare for each potential challenge.

The youth use their robots to compete in a variety of competitions including a ball course, driving maze, driving course and autonomous programming courses. Students also participated in presentations and troubleshooting.



The CEENBoT above is equipped with a special camera that can be used to venture into dangerous places.

Governor Heineman opened the day emphasizing the skills these young students were learning in science, technology, engineering, math, and design. "The challenge we face today is to prepare these children for jobs that don't yet exist and equip our children to deal with problems that we aren't even aware of yet," Heineman said.

Strategic Plan for Economic Growth

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) have a four-point strategic plan for economic growth and jobs, which will enable the U.S. to compete and succeed in the global economy.

By creating a strong manufacturing sector focusing on investment, trade, the workforce and innovation, the U.S. can continue to be a global leader in manufacturing output.

Goal 1: The United States will be the best place in the world to manufacture and attract foreign direct investment.



Goal 2: The United States will expand access to global markets to enable manufacturers to reach the 95% of consumers who live outside our borders.

Goal 3: Manufacturers in the United States will have the workforce that the 21st Century economy requires.

Goal 4: Manufacturers in the United States will be the world's leading innovators.

These goals will set a path for global competitiveness, economic growth and jobs.

SKILLS USA—NEBRASKA LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE
Central Community College—Hastings, Nebraska
April 12-14, 2012



www.dreamit-doit.com/Nebraska

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IN THE NEWS!

HOLDREGE —February 2012 Nebraska Manufacturer Re- ceived Recognition by White House

DIDI supporter Allmand Brothers, Inc. was recognized at a White House and U.S. Department of Agriculture event recognizing manufacturing success in rural America.

"Allmand Brothers, Inc. was selected with other manufacturers from around the

country for successfully establishing and growing a business in a rural region, such as Holdrege that is home to 5,636 rural residents."

Allmand Brothers, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of a portable light towers, job site heaters, compact tractor loader backhoes, Port-A-Lite™ stands and solar arrow boards.



AREA DIRECTOR UPDATES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Metro Community College is ready to go on NIMMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) which will line up with the NAM/Manufacturing Institutes credentialing.

Keith Mello is working with education chair—Greg Adams on developing a legislative bill for additional funding for our kind of programs.

Feb. 24th—Entrepreneurship Summit was held at the Embassy Suites. Key note speakers were Lt. Governor, Rich Sheehy and University of NE President, J.B. Milliken. Over 500 attended the summit.

Brian Turner with Behlen Mfg. Co.-Distefano Technology & Mfg. spoke on behalf of DIDI at a breakout session during the Entrepreneurship Summit. Brian's session was titled "Big Ideas to Big Opportunities".

NAMC SCORECARD 2012

2012 Events Attended	Est. Attend.	Est. Contacts
High School Career Fairs	80	80
Classroom Presentations	190	190
Community Presentations	175	175
Mfg. Tours / Job Shadows		
DIDI Meetings	119	119
DIDI Booth	450	360
Buzz Newsletters	730	730
News Media	365	365
Website Traffic	2175	2175
Year-to-date 2012 (Jan)	4,284	4,194
Campaign Totals 2006-current	109,678	67,329

OMAHA: John Vyhldal - NMC, Conductix and Tri-V will be conducting Mock Interviews with Bellevue High Schools.

John is looking for someone to step forward to chair the Intern Program and the Explorer Post program in Omaha.

DAWSON COUNTY: Stephanie Nichols will be going to Scottsbluff in March for their Business and Industry Tour.

Went on a couple of High School visits and visited the University of Kearney.

IN THE NEWS!

OMAHA WORLD HERALD —February 14, 2012 Job-Training Funds Would Be Welcomed

DIDI sponsor company—Behlen Mfg. Co./Distefano Technology in Omaha shared this success story in the Omaha World Herald. "John Perez calls himself a success story." After being laid off from his job in 2010, he found his way to a job training program through the Workforce Investment Act and



Goodwill Industries.

Through the program, he enrolled in welding classes and before long he had developed much needed skills and started his career at Behlen/Distefano Technology and Mfg.

"My goal the whole time was to find a good job at the end of this, and that happened", Perez said.

With the ever-growing need for skilled workers in manufacturing and related businesses, President Obama has outlined a \$3.8 trillion budget proposal. In it, Obama talks about job training to better align business needs with skilled workers.

When people get matched with the right program, they are often successful.

To read more click here: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20120214/NEWS01/702149915/-1#job-training-funds-would-be-welcomed>