AACTEA continued its regional tours with a visit to the NE Arkansas Career & Technical Center (NEACTC) in Jonesboro on Tuesday, November 12. NEACTC serves approximately 800 students from 13 school districts in four Northeast Arkansas counties. The Center strives to instill in every student the skills necessary to compete for high demand, high-wage earning careers in order to lead successful lives in the ever-expanding global marketplace. NEACTC offers a variety of programs including Advanced Manufacturing, Welding Technology, Culinary Arts, Medical Professions, Mobile Apps Development, UAV Drones Piloting, Auto Collision, Graphic Design/Technology/Film, and HVACR. Visitors also heard a presentation on the importance of student certifications and the impact of Skills USA. Dozens of industry certifications and quite a number of competitions are available for students. The tour ended with a delicious lunch provided by the Center’s Culinary Arts I & II students.

From empty room in Fall 2018 to NEACTC Welding Technology Center in Fall 2019. AACTEA tour participants are shown a variety of welders, highly-transformable welding stations and CNC plasma cutting table where specialized signs and other complex student projects are created.

Automotive Service Technology Instructor David Ashlock speaks to AACTEA attendees during an event tour in the Automotive Service Technology program of study. Ashlock noted that NEACTC offers ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) student certification in nine areas to students attending NEACTC at no cost to students.
If you have an innovative project in your schools you’d like to share for our newsletter, contact Mike Mertens, AAEA Assistant Director, at 501-372-1691 or at m.mertens@theaaea.org or Dr. Joe Rollins, President, at 479-409-7409 or joe@nwacouncil.org.
Centerpoint Academy Agriculture and Skilled Trade (CAAST)
Classes Will Begin August 2020

The Centerpoint Academy Agriculture and Skilled Trade (CAAST) school is set to open in August 2020. The school will offer a curriculum to students in rural Clark and Pike Counties where they can choose to have all their classes based around agriculture. The recently approved charter will be part of the current high school. CAAST will be an expansion of the Meat Processing Systems program of study currently being offered. Through this program, practical hands-on skills are taught that help students get jobs after graduation. Recently, the program received funding that will expand its meat processing service to include curing ham and bacon in an onsite smokehouse. Another goal is to process USDA-inspected meat that can be sold in an onsite retail shop. Currently, about half of Centerpoint’s students attend elective agricultural classes each year.

CAAST will be open for enrollment in January and classes will start in August of 2020. Click [here](#) for more information on CAAST.

Lake Hamilton Student Experience Work-Based Opportunities
Food Production, Management, and Services

Students at Lake Hamilton HS, through the Food Production, Management, and Services program, received work-based learning opportunities with local restaurants and actually cater events in the Hot Springs area. This past year, over 120 students earned Servsafe Food Handler certifications, and 15 students earned ServSafe Manager certifications. In addition, the school district partners with UA-Pulaski Tech Culinary to provide concurrent coursework.

Alma DECA Sponsors Tour of ABB Motors and Manufacturing
Expanding Student Awareness of Area Career Opportunities

Marketing students at Alma HS recently toured ABB Motors in Fort Smith. ABB is a Swiss-Swedish multinational custom manufacturer and marketer of industrial electric motors, drives, and mechanical power transmission products. Students had the chance to ask questions, watch some of the assembly-line building and producing of motors and just learn the truth behind modern-day factory work. The company invests in their employees by providing incentives for them to continue their education while still employed at ABB. By sponsoring this manufacturing tour, Alma DECA is hoping to expand awareness of local career development opportunities for area students.

Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center (SEABEC)
Serving Warren, Rison, Woodlawn, Hermitage, and Hampton School Districts

This secondary career center is located in Warren and offers programs of study in computer engineering, construction, criminal justice, medical, welding, and teacher cadet. In the medical program of study, SEACBEC’s instructors are certified to teach Medical Professions programs through a blended online design where students get learning opportunities in a digital format as well as face-to-face instruction. These online skills prepare students for college readiness, where many of the classes are aligned for concurrent credit.
"Root Negative One," the Tyson School of Innovation's robotics team recently won a silver medal from an overseas competition in this year's First Global Challenge, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The team earned its medal in the Katherine Johnson Award for Engineering Documentation, which recognizes teams for their work demonstrating the journey they took in building their robots. "Root Negative One" earned the right to represent the United States by winning the top award at a national competition in Houston last spring.

**Springdale Competes in Global Robotics Challenge**
Tyson School of Innovation Brings Home Silver Medal

The Ozark High School Principles of Banking instructor with Bank OZK and ATU-Ozark is developing a partnership to benefit students. Through this partnership, the university awards up to 24 hours of concurrent credit, and Bank OZK provides up to six hours of college credit for internship opportunities. Participants in the program will gain entry-level banking operations skills relevant to those occupational skills required in the banking industry. Students can also earn nationwide Arkansas Bankers’ Association certification. Students who complete the banking courses during their junior and senior years in high school can then work during the summer as interns for the Bank of the Ozarks’ Operations Center in Ozark.

**Construction Technology with an On-Campus Twist**
Embedded Math and Physics Concepts

At Genoa Central, Construction Technology students completed the addition to a school administration building earlier this year. In addition, they began this semester working on a field house addition, including dressing rooms. Students work on all phases of the construction including dirt-work, laying the foundation, pouring and finishing concrete, and putting up the walls. Students also will complete the roof, brick-laying, drywall, painting and some of the electrical. Embedded within this curriculum are both math and physics concepts, which are being taught to students in a way that is both applicable and meaningful to them.

**Van Buren HS Automation and Robotics Program**
Earning Math and CTE Credits Simultaneously

Students in this program have the opportunity to earn a math credit while also earning a CTE credit. Students learn concepts such as continuous reciprocating cylinders programming with ladder logic, circuits, soldering. This program is valuable to students because of the increase in robot automation being utilized in area industry. Students enrolled in this program of study engage in hands-on, problem-based learning. Many students in the program have also been provided with work-based learning opportunities, and some have even been offered summer jobs related to robot automation since completing the program.