

The LCCPA Business Pathway

Since LCCPA began operating in the fall of 2011, we have focused on career exploration and development in two main pathways: Health Sciences and Engineering & Manufacturing. After our first year, in order to meet the needs of a greater number of students, we decided that we wanted to open a Business pathway. This made complete sense since all of our partners within our two traditional pathways require individuals in traditional business careers in order to operate and meet their customer's needs. In the three years that followed, we had four students choose the Business pathway as their area of emphasis. Unfortunately, such a small number of students prevented us from developing our business pathway as fully as the other two. This, in turn, kept us from attracting more students to the Business pathway. Last spring, we made the decision to actively recruit students to this pathway and do the hard work of developing it as fully as our two well-established pathways.



With the development of this new pathway, we are excited to bring a new teacher to the fold. Mr. Jason LaVigne started teaching Business Education courses at Little Chute High School in the Fall of 1997. He grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and earned his Bachelor's Degree at Northern Michigan University. He later attended UW-Oshkosh where he earned his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Mr. LaVigne will be the Academy business instructor and will teach a variety of courses, including computer classes, general business classes, accounting, and entrepreneurship, which operates the Mustang Locker Room retail store. Mr. LaVigne is also the adviser of our chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

Most importantly, we are excited to introduce our group of four new students who will be the pioneers in the development of our complete pathway model. Elizabeth Ebben, Matthew Sanderfoot, and Nathan Van Lankveldt are new freshman this year, and are joined by sophomore Jeremy Mansfield. They have already completed their first career experience of the year at Amerequip Corporation, and are scheduled to make visits to Unison Credit Union, Chase Bank, WIPFLi CPAs and Consultants, and the Appleton PAC.

The goal of these visits is to introduce these students to a variety of business related careers [HR, Accounting, Sales, Marketing, etc.] within a variety of business sectors [Manufacturing, Banking, Finance, Entertainment] so that they can experience and analyze what it means to be “in business”. Make sure you read about the students' first experience on the second page of the newsletter!

Special thanks go to David Brantingham, Brian Smarzinski, and Laurie Fenner from Resource One International for serving as a sounding board as we developed the philosophy of our new program. Also playing a key role were members of our Advisory Board, including Lisa Olejnicziak from Atrium Health and Senior Living, Laura Weber from Unison Credit Union, and Erin Schultz from Fox Valley Technical College. As always, interaction and input with our partners is critical to the development of every opportunity that we provide our students and is GREATLY appreciated!

Business Experience #1: Amerequip

The LCCPA business students joined the manufacturing and engineering students as they visited the Amerequip facility in Kiel, WI this past September. We started our day with an overview of Amerequip from Mr. Mike Vander Zanden. He talked about hiring requirements and the interview process, and the emphasis that Amerequip puts on hiring people that have good character and are team players. The business students then went on a tour of the facility to see how the factory operates and the importance of quality.

During lunch the students were presented information about Quality Engineering. They discussed the Six Sigma process improvement model and the lean manufacturing principles and how they can improve many types of organizations productivity and efficiency.



In the afternoon, the business students were able to meet individually with business professionals from four different business departments including: Human Resources, Cost Accounting, Supply Chain Management, and Business Development. The students were able to learn about specific business careers which will prepare them to make future education and career path decisions. The Amerequip trip was a great first exposure to the world of business. The students will soon be traveling to local financial institutions to learn more about banking and finance.

Project Lead The Way: Computer Science



As part of their experience at LCCPA, our new business students, as well as our engineering students, have an exciting new opportunity for academic and career growth. This past summer, Mr. LaVigne spent two weeks at Milwaukee School of Engineering being trained to teach **Computer Science and Software Engineering** through Project Lead The Way. As described at pltw.org, "Using Python® as a primary tool and incorporating multiple platforms and languages for computation, this course aims to develop computational thinking, generate excitement about career paths that utilize computing, and introduce professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration. CSE helps students develop programming expertise and explore the workings of the Internet. Projects and problems include app development, visualization of data, cybersecurity, and simulation."

CSE adds to the list of Project Lead The Way courses being taught through Little Chute Career Pathways Academy. We are excited for this opportunity for our Business pathway students, but we also feel that our Engineering and Manufacturing students can benefit greatly from this course as the content requires students to develop many of the technical skills required in today's advanced manufacturing environments. As always, we will continue to provide our students with the most innovative and challenging curriculum as possible to prepare them for any post-secondary option that comes their way! There are a couple upcoming opportunities in our local area for students interested in IT and Computer Science. The first one is an open house event being hosted by Bemis Corporation on October 21, 2015 from 5-6pm. The Bemis Open House will focus on Junior and Senior students that are interested in learning more about IT careers and the Bemis youth apprenticeship program. The other opportunity is an IT Career Exploration Course being offered by FVTC. The course is intended to provide an overview of a variety of careers in Information Technology and Innovation. The students will also travel to nine seminars that will be hosted by local IT companies. Students will earn one credit at FVTC and the entire course is free. If parents or students would like more details on either of these opportunities they can contact Mr. LaVigne.
