



FALLS CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH ENTERPRISE | VOLUME III | 2018

Our mission is to encourage economic development and growth and improve the business conditions of the Falls City area.

MANUFACTURING DAY 2018



Mitch Merz of Merz Farm Equipment demonstrates drone technology to Falls City Middle School students.

Falls City EDGE hosted its second National Manufacturing Day event on October 5, 2018 in an effort to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. The day is filled with Richardson County middle school

students touring the Falls City Industrial Park in order to show kids that industrial shops aren't what they used to be. Today's trades feature some of the most sophisticated operations in history including co-bots, computer-assisted engineering, advanced robotics and other cutting-edge innovations. The idea of MFG Day, an annual event founded in 2012 and supported by a multitude of manufacturing trade associations, is to invite people into local facilities to observe manufacturing operations first-hand. It's a nation-wide effort aimed at addressing common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving manufacturers an opportunity to open their doors and show, in a coordinated effort, what manufacturing is and what it isn't.

This year's event included some 250 middle school students from Falls City Middle School, Humboldt Table Rock Steinauer, and Sacred Heart. Students had the opportunity to check out careers, facilities and manufactured products built in Falls City. Each student had the opportunity to tour two or three sites including Airlanco, Kearney Welding, Vantec, Inc., Falls City Foods, Merz Farm Equipment and Consolidated Grain and Barge. They now have firsthand knowledge of the skills and education needed to obtain a career in the agricultural, plastics, metal manufacturing and food industries.

The upshot? "Workers with the right skill set are in high demand in today's manufacturing segment," said Beckie Cromer, Executive Director of Falls City EDGE. "These tours are a great opportunity for local youth to see first-hand how promising a career in manufacturing can be." Local industries are happy to invite area youth into their companies because, one day, they will be their workforce. It's so important to support area students while giving them an inside look at what is available for their growth right here in their own backyard.



HTRS students participate in a Q&A session at Falls City Foods.



Falls City Sacred Heart students dig into the plastic resin material used to make Kawasaki parts at Vantec.



Falls City EDGE awarded a \$500 scholarship to Joe Bieker, a 2018 graduate of Falls City Sacred Heart, for his submission of a #fallscityproud video! Tiger and Irish graduates were asked to submit a short 30-60 second video describing why they are #fallscityproud and we received a number of quality applicants with, Joe Bieker, Sophie Gilsdorf and Noah Milam being named as finalists. Each video was published on the Falls City EDGE Facebook page. We look forward to providing this opportunity once again for 2019 graduates. Congratulations Joe!

VANTEC CORPORATE VISIT

Falls City EDGE engages in a corporate visit strategy that includes traveling to headquarters every two years. Our team has developed strategic, valued relationships with corporate decision makers across North America and we appreciate the time each company takes to meet with us each time we travel to their home base. This year, the team of Gary Jorn, Rod Rowland and Beckie Cromer traveled to Webster City, IA to visit our friends Willie and Bev Van Wyhe and Sherri Hotzler at Vantec Inc. The team was able to hear an update on business conditions of the corporation as well as extend an offer of support for any future growth plans they have for their Falls City facility. Vantec, Inc is celebrating their 10 year anniversary in Falls City in October 2018! We thank them for their capital investment and job creation and congratulate them on a successful 10 years in Falls City!



THE AMES COMPANIES



The Ames Companies hosted corporate officials from Camp Hill, PA in Falls City recently and EDGE members were invited down to check out all the exciting advancements being made at the facility. The local plant is in the process of adding capital investment to their local operations again this year. They have installed a high-tech manufacturing robot as the last stop on their tool line as well as the installation of a second heat induction furnace. This type of heating technology offers the unique capabilities of induction which provides a fast, efficient, and precise method of heating in their manufacturing process. This is a multi-million-dollar investment project and the goal is to have the new equipment operational by December 1st.



The Ames Charitable Foundation has also been busy being generous to local schools while working to instill a student passion for manufacturing. This year The Ames Companies donated Lego Mindstorm EV3 kits to Falls City Sacred Heart School. This hands on equipment will engage students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education by providing the resources to design, build and program their robotic creations that will be used in regional competitions this winter.

PERU STATE COLLEGE TOWN HALL



Peru State College is conducting listening sessions across the region for "Nebraska FWD (Future Workforce Development)." Falls City EDGE hosted community leaders at the Falter Museum for the input session

SAVE THE DATE!

Falls City EDGE will hold their 2018 Annual Banquet on January 9, 2019! Details will be coming soon!



INVENTURE DAY



UNL Extension sponsored INVENTURE Day at HTRS this year bringing 7th grade students and mentors from across Richardson County together to create unique business ideas. This is an innovative field day experience for middle school youth designed to stimulate entrepreneurial thinking and innovation by connecting youth to local entrepreneurs and community opportunities. Our next generation of business owners put their heads together to come up with a new product, pricing structure, identification of a target market as well as a quick pitch presentation to their peers. It was a great day full of fun and learning and mentors were very impressed with the creative genius shown by all the students!

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