

Area Students Attend Manufacturing Academy

Sixteen area students, representing Yankton, Bon Homme, Menno, Bonesteel-Fairfax and Hartington Cedar Catholic high schools, were honored during a Recognition Ceremony Friday, June 22, after completing Yankton's first Manufacturing Academy.

The two-week Manufacturing Academy, sponsored by Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) and the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), was designed to help students advance their welding and machining skills as well as to introduce them to the wealth of career opportunities in the manufacturing field.

During the two-week academy, students spent their first week at RTEC exploring careers and completing classroom and lab activities. Thanks to the cooperation of local manufacturers, they also had an opportunity to see technology in action as they toured Kolberg-Pioneer, Lewis & Clark Hydraulics, Wilson Trailer Company, Gehl Company and Applied Engineering. In the second part of the academy, students gained hands-on knowledge and applied what they learned as they completed week-long internships at Wilson Trailer, Lewis & Clark Hydraulics, Applied Engineering, Freeman Company and at RTEC under the supervision of academy instructors Bob Evans and Clemens Spindler.

For successfully completing the two-week academy, students could earn up to \$400 and some, like those from Yankton High School, are also eligible to earn a half credit towards their graduation requirements. Based upon the success of first MTI/RTEC Manufacturing Academy, plans are already being made to offer similar learning experiences for high school students next summer. Details will be announced at a later date. For more information, contact RTEC at (605) 668-5700.