

PRESS RELEASE



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BPM Peshtigo Education Center Celebrates Seven Local Graduates

The BPM and GPS Education Partners shared partnership makes it possible to offer local students a personalized, immersive and manufacturing-based education

PESHTIGO, Wis. – Students from the BPM Peshtigo Education Center who participate in the GPS Education Partners (GPS) program will be honored for their achievements Wednesday, June 1 at the Celebrating Success event held at the Rock Garden in Green Bay, Wis. The Peshtigo GPS Class of 2016 include the following students: Thomas Lovett, Tyler Bayer, Devon Dettman, Teri Hartl, Dalton Collins, Brandon Veriha and Ricky Carlson. These students will speak about their accomplishments throughout the program at a celebration luncheon also held at the BPM Education Center on French Street, May 11.

The students began as high school juniors and learned in a supported, learning community with a dedicated instructor, Karen Sporrer, who facilitated personal and authentic learning plans to meet individual student needs. Students spent each day immersed in blended learning that combined academics in a small class setting with structured training experiences that allowed for the application of subject matter directly in the manufacturing environment.

The students also worked alongside workplace mentors, who assist in day-to-day activities, in a real-world, real-time experience that supported career exploration and allowed students to develop valuable employability skills.

BPM Inc., one of the local GPS business partners which hosts Peshtigo's Education Center, has been donating classroom space since 2013 for the teaching and training of students. Other local sponsors who have also provided support and work placement to the program include Anchor Coupling Inc., ChemDesign, KS Kolbenschmidt US, Inc., R.W. Fernstrum & Company, Tyco Fire Protection Products, and UTC Aerospace Systems.

As Wisconsin's only manufacturing specific, statewide Department of Workforce Development Youth Apprenticeship Program, GPS Education Partners is an innovative education model that uniquely prepares students to succeed in technical careers and promotes viability for business. It is a platform designed to provide solutions sought beyond the classroom, which offers a leading way in a technical education model that accelerates employability.

In 2015, 83 students graduated from GPS and 98% of them are currently working full time or attending college. For the seven local graduates, GPS has been a catalyst to future opportunities. Dalton Collins of the Peshtigo School District, has been accepted by NWTC for the fall 2016 Welding Program. "I learned job skills that will help me after I graduate. I



Top Left to Right: Emily Lukacs (GPS Apprenticeship Coordinator), Tyler Bayer, Brandon Veriha, Ricky Carlson, Jean Roskams (GPS Account Manager), Karen Sporrer (GPS Classroom Instructor) Bottom Left to Right: Devon Dettman, Teri Hartl, Dalton Collins

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honestly had no idea what a resume was or even looked like until I joined GPS. I was repeatedly exposed to interviewing and speaking opportunities with adults so I gained confidence. All these are skills I actually need when I get out of school. I am also glad that I joined the GPS program because it put me on the right path. It gave me more experience working, showed me that I can do anything I put my mind to and most importantly, it showed me how much my family actually cares and supports me,” said Collins.

Tyler Bayer, Teri Hartl and Devon Dettmann will pursue full time employment in manufacturing. Ricky Carlson is seeking both full time employment in manufacturing along with technical college education in welding and/or diesel mechanic. Thomas Lovett is seeking an entry level CNC machining position in a manufacturing setting and Brandon Veriha has been accepted for fall 2016 semester at NWTC.

“This program has offered training, mentorship and partnership opportunities that local businesses may not have had access to in the past,” said Jim Koronkiewicz, General Manager BPM. “We recognize that today’s educational standard of a one-size-fits-all model may not apply to all students and by partnering with the local schools and the GPS, we can help more students with different learning styles become successful, dedicated employees and likewise, continue to build our area’s manufacturing.”

The student’s on-hands work related experiences and responsibilities include computer set-up on machinery, machine welding, machine maintenance, fabrication, packaging, checking parts for tolerances, operate multiple hydraulic presses, cleaning, organizing parts, fetching tools/dies as needed, executing quality checks utilizing various pieces of testing equipment, assisting team of pipe-fitters, welders, mechanics and electricians with set-up and maintenance of processes. Some students also received various certifications including MSSC Safety, Quality, Processes, Assembly, Machining and Financial Literacy.

About BPM

BPM Inc. partnered with GPS Education in 2013 to provide an Educational Center at 101 French Street in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. In May 2014, BPM was presented with an award as recognition of the valuable partnership shared by BPM's dedication to helping students successfully navigate toward continued education, meaningful careers and productive lives. BPM is a leading manufacturer of specialty papers and converted materials for the packaging, food service and confectionery industries. BPM offers full-service toll printing and in-house capabilities to add wax and polymer coating to flexible packaging products. The environmentally-focused company also produces uncoated fine papers, Envirographic™ 100 made from 100% post consumer waste recycled paper for the printing industry. | www.bpmpaper.com

About GPS

GPS is an education product company with an innovative approach that includes forming education, business and community partnerships to accelerate technical-skilled careers. The nonprofit offers the opportunity for students to learn in a personalized, blended-learning structure that is tied to an immersive, work-based environment. GPS partners with school districts to attract high school juniors and seniors to the program. Once a student joins, he or she remains enrolled and graduates from his or her home high school. Throughout the student’s time in the program, he or she can earn college credits that can be applied to a postsecondary education. Students also have the opportunity to earn stackable credentials composed of the Youth Apprenticeship Certification and MSSC (Manufacturing Standard Skills Council) Certifications in the workplace. | www.gpsed.org