

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHAMBER REACHES MORE THAN 5,000 STUDENTS IN TWO WEEKS WITH CAREER INFO

(St. Joseph, MO) -- The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce works diligently to grow the economic vitality of the city. An important part of that is workforce development, educating and training people to meet the current and future needs of business and industry.

In a two-week time frame, the Chamber (with support of educators and business partners) will reach more than 5,000 students with in person, in depth learning opportunities with Edge Factor, the My Success Event and Manufacturing Day. On Sept. 24, more than 2,000 middle and high school students learned about careers and the skills needed to be successful at the Edge Factor kickoff. This year-long program provides an online platform for teachers, counselors, and students to explore careers in technical fields.

Upcoming events:

On Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 2 and 3, more than 2,500 high school sophomores from 50 Northwest Missouri schools will learn about their possible careers at the 13th annual **My Success Event** at Wyatt Park Baptist Church, 2902 N. Leonard Road. At this event, representatives from local companies meet with students to talk about career fields available in St. Joseph. The career fields are wide-ranging, from finance and health care to manufacturing and marketing.

The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce organizes the event, with participation from multiple local and regional partners. The event is presented by one of St. Joseph's largest employers: Boehringer Ingelheim.

More than 70 businesses and 12 university, college and technical centers will be a part of the interactive event, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day. For more information visit this website: <http://themysucsessevent.com/>

On Friday, Oct. 4, the Chamber is working with local manufacturers and the St. Joseph School District to host **Manufacturing Day**. Manufacturing Day is a national event that St. Joseph has participated in for four years that recognizes the contributions and advancements made possible through manufacturing companies and careers. About 500 students will tour different manufacturing companies in St. Joseph to learn about skills used, education needed and career options. Manufacturing Day activities are meant to change the image of the industry and help introduce high school students and families to industry changes.

The following companies have scheduled tours or presentations: BlueScope Buildings, Biozyme, Altec Industries, Gray Manufacturing, Herzog Contracting Corp., LifeLine Foods, Nor-Am Cold Storage, Reardon Machine Co., Snorkel, Summit Truck Group, Van Am Tool & Engineering, Inc., and Schutz Container.

The media is invited to talk with employers and students at 8:30 a.m. at LifeLine Foods, 2811 S. 11th St.

"The Chamber realizes the importance of educating students about career fields available in St. Joseph, and the training and education it takes to get those jobs," said R. Patt Lilly, President and CEO. "With these three events, we'll cover everything needed for students to start their careers off right. From technical certificates and four-year degrees to soft skills, like showing up to work on time, students will know what it takes to be successful when they enter the workforce."

About the Chamber: Since its inception in 1862 as the Board of Trade of St. Joseph, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has been the catalyst for economic growth and development in Northwest Missouri. The Chamber strives to be the unified voice of business that advocates, promotes and inspires the St. Joseph area. The Chamber's mission, supported by more than 1,200 members, is to create an environment that allows business to thrive and the community to prosper.

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