



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APEX and the Lake Superior Perkins Consortium Coordinated Manufacturing Tours for Regional High School Students

Duluth, MN: Last week, the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) and the Lake Superior Perkins Consortium arranged tours of regional manufacturing facilities for approximately 300 high school students on October 12-13, 2022. Students from schools covering Moose Lake to Duluth, including Fond du Lac, had the opportunity to explore 13 companies in Duluth, Superior and Two Harbors.

“The best way to understand the regional manufacturing industry and the career opportunities it holds, is first-hand experience and exposure,” said Rachel Johnson, APEX President and CEO. “APEX understands that workforce development begins far sooner than when someone lands their first job. It was an informative and fun day with the region’s next generation of manufacturing professionals.”

The manufacturing tours are educational and transformative experiences that allow students to see the variety of skilled and lucrative manufacturing careers close to home. Students have the opportunity to connect with potential manufacturing employers, and in turn, employers can begin promoting their companies to the future workforce. These mutually-beneficial experiences have proven results, with many students from previous tours being hired on as interns or full-time employees.

Manufacturing companies that participated in the tour include APEX Investor-Members:

- [Altec, Inc.](#)
- [Barko Hydraulics](#)
- [BendTec LLC](#)
- [Cirrus Aircraft](#)
- [Exodus Global](#)
- [GPM, Inc.](#)

and other area manufacturing leaders:

- BuiltRite/Northshore Manufacturing
- FeraDyne Outdoors

- Frost River
- IPS Cranes
- LaBounty, Stanley Black
- LP Building Solutions
- SCS Interiors

To learn more or participate in a future manufacturing tour, please contact Sandy Johnson, APEX Director of Member Relations and Administration, at Sandy@APEXgetsbusiness.com.

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About APEX

APEX is the private sector-led business development engine for northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. APEX investor-members represent some of the most influential companies in the region, with a collaborative approach to promoting sustainable economic growth. APEX attraction, expansion and retention efforts focus in areas including aviation, manufacturing, professional services and next generation forest products. APEX has impacted over 4,340 jobs in the region, resulting in an annual regional payroll of over \$177.9 million and contributing to over \$24.5 million in state and local taxes annually. For more information on APEX, please visit www.APEXgetsbusiness.com.