

VALEES ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

VALLEY EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM
(VALEES)

www.valees.org

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VALEES Annual Report

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Section 2

WHAT IS VALEES?

Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES) is a regional delivery system established by the Illinois State Board of Education which serves 17 school districts, two area career/vocational centers, one special education cooperative and Waubensee Community College, covering a five-county area.

We are directed by ISBE to:

- Provide career & technical education curriculum and program development
- Provide professional growth in-services/workshops for teachers, counselors and administrators
- Assist schools in technology and equipment updates
- Assure efficiency, access and equity in delivery of career and technical education
- Submit and administer career and technical education-related grants and disperse funds to member districts
- Promote local business and industry partnerships with education at all levels.

VALEES is divided into three sub-regions:

- Indian Valley Sub-region is comprised of eleven feeder districts to the Indian Valley Vocational Center
- Fox Valley Sub-region is comprised of three feeder districts to the Fox Valley Career Center
- River Valley Sub-region is comprised of East Aurora, West Aurora and Oswego districts.

Section 4

MEMBER DISTRICTS

River Valley Sub-region

CUSD #308
East Aurora #131
West Aurora #129

Fox Valley Sub-region

Batavia #101
Fox Valley Career Center
Geneva #304
Kaneland #302

Indian Valley Sub-region

Earlville #9
Hinckley-Big Rock #429
Indian Creek #425
Indian Valley Vocational Center
Kendall County Special Education Cooperative
Leland #1
Newark #18
Paw Paw #271
Plano #88
Sandwich #420
Serena #2
Somonauk #432
Yorkville #115

Section 5 GRANTS

VALEES receives grant funds from both state and federal sources. These grants include:

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT GRANT (CTEI)**

\$1,450,798

The CTEI grant has several components as the deciding factor in funding. Components included are program improvement, elementary career development, partnership state, administrative, work-based learning and credit generation.

PERKINS

\$663,481

Federal funds are provided to the regional system based on a formula including Chapter 1 allocation, P.L. 94-142 count, and 9-12 enrollments. Only those districts generating more than \$15,000 using this formula are eligible to receive flow-through funds from VALEES. Funds are allocated locally per Coordinating Council approval.

TOTAL FY'16 VALEES GRANT FUNDS

\$2,114,279

Section 6

STANDING COMMITTEES

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is the VALEES board of control and is comprised of nine superintendents, three from each sub-region who meet a minimum of four times each year. All VALEES business is approved by this council. This year's members are:

Batavia	Dr. Lisa Hichens
East Aurora	Dr. Michael Popp
Geneva	Dr. Kent Mutchler (CHAIR)
Hinckley-Big Rock	Dr. Travis McGuire
Kaneland	Dr. Todd Leden
Newark	Dr. Amy Smith
Oswego	Dr. Matthew Wendt
Somonauk	Dr. Jay Streicher
West Aurora	Dr. Jeff Craig

Steering Committee

School administrators and/or CTE coordinators make up the Steering Committee whose function is to make recommendations on VALEES activities to the Coordinating Council. The committee meetings are approximately four times per year. This year's members are:

Batavia	Mike Bryant	Plano	Eric Benson
Earlville	Rich Faivre	Sandwich	Micky Herzog
East Aurora	Anthony Crespo		Tom Sodaro
FVCC	Rick Burchell	Serena	Steve Hansen
Geneva	Scott McPeak	Somonauk	Laura Hatch
Hinckley-Big Rock	Tracey Sanderson	VALEES	Cassie Blickem
Indian Creek	Sarah Montgomery		Roger Sanders
IVVC	Ron Pieper (Chair)	WCC	Faith LaShure
Kaneland	Renee Grisch		Joy Sanders
Kendall Co. Spec. Ed.	Amy Lee		Michael Cermak
Leland	Chris Bickel		Dr. Jess Toussaint
Newark	James Still	West Aurora	Whitney Martino
Oswego	Dan Okoren		Matt Clark
Oswego East	Dave Carlisle	Yorkville	Joel Wyeth
Paw Paw	Chuck Schneider		

Student Services Committee

Counselors and special populations coordinators comprise this committee. Activities that assist instructors and counselors in addressing the needs of all students are planned at this committee level. Normally four meetings are scheduled each year.

Batavia

Kim Garcia
Erin Hack
Steven Lesniak
Alton Rollerson
Arlene Sweeney-Schmidt

Earlville

Jennifer Rhode

East Aurora

Susan Foody
Colleen Kelso
Marina Kosak
Brian Melvin
Karen Pfeiffer
Andrew Rathje
Margo Schmitt
Jessica Spieth
Nakita Stewart

Fox Valley Career Center

Vernon Alexander

Geneva

Emily Doty
Victoria Holbrook
David King
Shari Klatt
Cindy Kovach
Maureen Mitchell
Cathy Pool
Sarah Thompson

Hinckley-Big Rock

Kelly Giannuzzi

Indian Creek

Alyx Bickel

Indian Valley Vocational Center

Laura Edwards

Kaneland

Vernon Alexander
Andy Franklin
Anna Lamica
Maria Mecic
Erin Shore

Kendall County Special Education Cooperative

Amy Lee

Leland

Melissa Livingston

Newark

Michelle McAnally

Oswego East

Julie Allen
Brittan Fatig
Melissa Gleason
Laurie Hafenrichter
Karla Hoinkes
Michelle Nevarez
Amy Rux
Emily Wiencek
Jessica Ziegler

Paw Paw

Emily Jamroch

Sandwich

Jennifer Docherty
Vida Martin

Somonauk

Angie Koontz

Waubensee Community College

Dave Barreto
Robert Cofield
Therese Kewin
Faith LaShure
Linda Linden
Joy Sanders
Kelli Sinclair
Melinda Tejada

Yorkville

Jill Holubetz
Anne Kuntz
Sarah Macko
Jeannine Pacetti
Sarah Pottinger
Alexis Rosborough
Ryan Schill

Oswego

Jamie Anderson
Jayne Colvin
Michelle Felten
Patti Marcinko
Melissa Niedert
Traci Perez

Plano

Cassie Chwalek
Eve Phillips

Serena

Amber Grenda

VALEES

Cassie Blickem
Roger Sanders

West Aurora

Valerie Copeland

Section 7

FISCAL AGENT

The Fiscal Agent for VALEES is the Kane County Regional Office of Education per Coordinating Council action affirming fiscal agent on April 19, 2016.

Section 8

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT

Kaneland Community Unit School District #302 serves as the Administrative Agent for VALEES, per Coordinating Council action affirming Administrative Agent on April 19, 2016. Kaneland provides the payroll and insurance functions for VALEES. VALEES reimburses all expenses assumed by Kaneland for this purpose.

Section 9

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Program committees and focus groups for twelve (12) VALEES programs comprised of secondary and post-secondary instructors and administrators meet regularly to address the following goals:

- Review and revise current curriculum with the business advisory members
- Articulate secondary courses to post-secondary institutions
- Plan and implement Professional Development opportunities for teachers

Program areas addressed this year include:

Agriculture/Horticulture	Auto Technology
Business, Marketing, and Computer Education	Clothing and Textiles
Cooperative Education	Culinary Arts/Food Service
Fire Science	Early Childhood Development
Graphics Communications	Health Occupations
Law Enforcement	Technology and Engineering Education (Industrial)

A Waubonsee Community College instructor and/or administrator is assigned to committees to act as a liaison between the secondary and post-secondary institutions.

VALEES hosted 30 separate committee and advisory meetings during the FY'16 school year. Articulation agreements are reviewed annually through program committees. Additionally, an all-day teacher in-service was offered with breakout sessions, program committee meetings and advisory meetings.

Section 10

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The purpose of Business and Industry Advisory Committees is to assist school administrators and instructors in offering quality, relevant occupational education programs. The Valley Education for Employment System and Waubensee Community College maintain joint advisory committees that are organized and operated under procedures approved by the governing boards of VALEES and Waubensee Community College.

A business and industry advisory committee should consist of five to fifteen members, not including ex-officio members, who are employed in or who have experience in occupations served by a program. Ex-officio members may include program teachers, students, and VALEES and WCC administrators.

Members named to an advisory committee shall reflect the composition of the communities served by the program. Factors to be considered in the selection of nominees shall include, but not be limited to, geographical distribution in the program service area, representation from various age groups, levels of education, program graduates, minority groups and both genders. A program advisory committee shall focus on the following issues to assure program quality and relevance to current occupational standards and practice.

- Training needs and placement opportunities for the program assigned
- Curriculum, instruction and minimum standards
- Regulations and safety in program related occupations
- Facility, equipment and supply standards
- Related academic and occupational information required
- Community based training, production and projects used in instruction
- Publicity and public relation
- Student and faculty recruiting standards
- Counseling, guidance and placement of students
- Professional development of program teachers

VALEES regularly schedules on-site visits to business and industry partners in order to enhance teachers', administrators' and counselors' knowledge of current workplace practices and necessary employability skills.

ESTABLISHED BUSINESS/INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Development of business and industry advisory committees is an on-going process for the VALEES Program Committees. Of the active program committees, 12 advisory committees have been established and meet on an annual basis or more often, as needed.

AGRICULTURE/HORTICULTURE ADVISORY MEMBERS

Agriculture and Horticulture Science Department, Joliet Junior College
Chicago Botanic Garden
Green Earth Institute, Naperville
Monsanto, Waterman Seed Physiology Lab
Seibert Landscaping, Bartlett
Tate & Lyle Food Systems, Sycamore

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY MEMBERS

Auto Machine
Carquest
Citgo Service Center
Doug AI-55 Auto Salvage
Elburn NAPA
Faser Automotive
Fastenal
Finish Line Performance
GM
Hyundai Motor Training Center
KB Collision
Keith's Car Care
Lee Auto Parts
Lee Bumper to Bumper
LKQ
Matco Tools
NAPA Auto Parts
Navistar
Nissan Corp.
Plano Collision
PPG Industries
Robinson's Automotive
Wheatland Automotive

BUSINESS, MARKETING AND COMPUTER EDUCATION ADVISORY MEMBERS

Bakers Marketing Group, Aurora
Blue Magnet Interactive, Chicago
Caterpillar, Inc.
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Chicago Portfolio School
Critical Mass, Chicago

BUSINESS, MARKETING AND COMPUTER EDUCATION ADVISORY MEMBERS (Cont.)

DDB, Chicago
Ernst & Young Accounting and Consulting, Chicago
Fabric Images, Elgin
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Heartland Bank and Trust
Kishwaukee Health System
Leo Burnett, Chicago
MCC Technology
Mobile Applications Lab, Northern Illinois University
Old Second Bank, Aurora
Red Frog Events, Chicago
ReV3 Innovation Center
Rosemont Convention Center
Village of Hoffman Estates
Von Maur
Walgreens, Inc., Deerfield
Weblinx, Oswego

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES ADVISORY MEMBERS

Bridgeport Arts Center (Human Thread and Fashion Design Center), Chicago
Chicago Fashion Incubator at Macy's on State Street
Columbia College's Fashion Studies design floor and garment collection, Chicago
Creative Sewing
Fashion Studies, College of DuPage
Von Maur

CULINARY ARTS/FOOD SERVICE ADVISORY MEMBERS

Ballydoyle Irish Pub and Restaurant, Aurora
CEO Rouxbe online supplemental instruction video cooking school
Chicago Food Planet
Colonial Cafe
Country Garden Cook, St. Charles
Elgin Community College
FONA International, Geneva
Great Harvest Bread Company, Geneva
Joliet Junior College
Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY MEMBERS

Brokaw Early Learning Center, Oswego
Children's Museum, Naperville
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, DuPage Co.
Karen's Nature Tales, Aurora
Natural Beginnings Pre-School, Yorkville
The Compass School, Naperville
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Patterson & McDaniel Family Center, DuPage Co.

GRAPHICS ADVISORY MEMBERS

Alpha Graphics
BFC Print
Bakers Marketing Group
Castle PrinTech
Chicago Portfolio School
Creative Design
Critical Mass
Cubicle Ninjas
Impact Engine
JC Imaginations
Kelmscott Press
Lisa Smith-Youngdahl Graphics
Open Books
Rule 29
Solar Communications
Tribeca Flashpoint Academy
Tryad Solutions
Weblinx, Inc.

HEALTH ADVISORY MEMBERS

Clinical Laboratory Science, College of Nursing, NIU, DeKalb
Delnor Medical Group, Geneva
Dreyer Medical Clinic, Aurora
Kishwaukee Health System, DeKalb
NIU School of Nursing, DeKalb
Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago
Nursing Learning Lab, College of Nursing, NIU, DeKalb
Rush Copley Hospital, Aurora
The Holmstad, Batavia
Walgreens Corp., Deerfield

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY MEMBERS

Aurora Police Department
Batavia Police Department
DeKalb Co. Sheriff's Department
Elburn Police Department
Geneva Police Department
Kane County Sheriff's Office
Kendall County Sheriff's Office
Montgomery Police Department
North Aurora Police Department
Oswego Police Department
Police Training Institute
Plano Police Department
Sandwich Police Department
Suburban Law Enforcement
Sugar Grove Police Department
Yorkville Police Department
U.S. Customs and Board Protection

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING EDUCATION (INDUSTRIAL)

Americhem Systems
Aurora Economic Development
Aurora Metals
BFC Print
Bison Gear
B-O-F Corporation
Brookfield Zoo
Burgess Norton
Caterpillar, Inc.
Diamond Envelope
Esco
Fabric Images
Fermilab
Flexicorps
Focus Optical
FONA International
Henderson Engineering
HQC, Inc.
Ideal Industries
Illinois State University
Kelmscott Press
Met-L-Flo
OAS, LLC
Plano Molding
Professional Manufacturing Representatives
Sauber Manufacutring
Smith & Richardson, Inc.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING EDUCATION (INDUSTRIAL) (Cont.)

Tech-Weld

Valley Industrial Association

Weldstar

Wrigley Mfg. Co.

EN Engineering

Fiberfin

Met-L-Flo

Mitutoyo, Aurora

O'Higgins & Arnold Sustainability

Roberts and Schaefer Engineers and Contractors, Chicago

Smith & Richardson, Geneva

TOX Pressotechnik

Section 11

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Program Committee Meetings

30 program committee meetings including advisory trips

Advisory Committee Meetings

11 advisory committee meetings

Steering Committee Meetings

4 steering committee meetings

In-Service Activities

1 All day in-service activity

Student Services Meetings

4 student services meetings

Coordinating Council Meetings

4 coordinating council meetings

Graduate Classes

2 graduate classes offered

Miscellaneous Presentations

- IWAS Training
- Community Services Fair
- Living miDream Project

School Visits

Roger Sanders, Director, and Cassie Blickem, Program Specialist visited several VALEES schools during the school to meet new staff, and to see the facilities.

Professional Development Hours

-Number of Professional Development Hours

Total: 4720.5

-Number of Professional Development Hours from Program Committees

Total: 2608.5

Number of Professional Development Hours from the VALEES March Inservice

Total: 2112

Section 12

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Building Partnerships for America's Future – March 4, 2016

This all day in-service was attended by over 300 attendees. *Exploring Boundaries, Connections and Communication: Seeking to Understand and Be Understood*, explored the questions we are faced with in an increasingly diverse, fast-paced, technologically driven world, through music and movement. Complex issues were explored in creative ways and conference attendees were encouraged to examine their own perspectives and the perspectives of others while exploring societal boundaries, who we are, where we fit in, how we connect and communicate with one another, and the interplay of these factors.

Breakout Sessions included:

- American Heartland Bank Business Advisory Field Trip
- Automotive Technology Committee Meeting
- Criminal Justice Business Advisory Meeting
- CTE and Common Core: Speak with Confidence About How CTE Programs Support Common Core
- Culinary Arts Regional Lab Assessment Development
- Early Childhood Education Business Advisory Meeting
- Exploring Boundaries, Connections and Communication: Seeking to Understand and be Understood
- Financial Fitness For Life
- Finding the Algebra Using Business and Industry Visits (2 Sessions)
- Fire Science Business Advisory Meeting
- Graphic Communications Program Committee Meeting
- How CTE Programs Support the Common Core
- How to Convince Anyone Your CTE Program is Worthwhile
- Hyundai Motor America Business Advisory Field Trip
- Incorporating TED Into Your Classroom
- Living miDream Financial Empowerment: Preparing Your Students for Success
- Managing and Engaging Your Class with Technology
- Manufacturing Career Awareness: A Business advisory Panel Speaks to Educators
- The CTE-Special Education Connection (2 Sessions)
- The 21st Century Interview
- The Power of Storytelling
- Tools for Talking When the Stakes are High
- We are Changing the Way We Work
- We are in an Emotional Revolution
- What's Your Deficit Disorder

ESEA/NCLB Statewide Conference February 23, 2016

A team of students and teachers participating in the miDream program gave the presentation, "The Point Where Talent and Passion Intersect-A Student's Point-of-View," to attendees of this conference. The presentation examined miDream's research-based process that helps students discover their true identities, career interests and personal pathways as told through compelling and emotionally engaging digital stories.

Connections Conference – March 8 and 9, 2016

Roger and Cassie shared with the Coordinating Council and the Steering committee on the various workshops and activities featured at the conference.

National Career Pathways Conference – October 29-30, 2015

Roger, Cassie, and two regional teachers attended this conference. Each attendee gave an informative presentation to conference attendees. Roger's presentation, "How Collaboration Means You Will Never Go to an Interview," used the perspective of the freelance entrepreneur and life-long educator to explore ways a living portfolio of work and people can be the connection to the next opportunity. Cassie's presentation, "Professional Development Partners: People Make the Difference," described the way that professional development partners create authentic connections, result in meaningful change, and directly benefit teachers and students. Lastly, the presentation by teachers from Oswego High School and Newark High School was the same presentation given at the ESEA/NCLB Statewide Conference as was described above.

Graduate Level Classes, Summer-2016

CTE: Influence Career Success (OEDC 5314)

June 13-17, 2016

Dr. Toni Tollerud-N.I.U.

9 attendees

Integrating Mathematics in CTE (OEDS 5468)

June 27-July 1st, 2016

Eve Phillips, Plano High School

Michelle McAnally, Newark High School

9 attendees

Section 13

PROGRAM COMMITTEE IN-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The following staff development opportunities were provided for career-technical secondary/post-secondary instructors:

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY –Met to plan annual business advisory events, Waubonsee Open House, and regional skills competition. Committee members also met with business advisory partners to discuss curriculum, preparedness of entry-level employees, changing industry trends and work-based learning opportunities for students.

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND COMPUTER EDUCATION – Half-day professional development with Northern Illinois University’s Virtual Economics program followed by half-day meetings to discuss curriculum and review articulated credit.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – Technical skill training and development on Serger embroidery machines at Creative Sewing in Geneva, IL.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

CULINARY ARTS/FOOD SERVICE – Business advisory trip to Colonial Café’s corporate headquarters and meeting to discuss assessment design and regional student competition. Additional meeting to continue practical in-lab assessments and plan for summer ServSafe. ServSafe Certification held June 6, 2016.

EARLY CHILDHOOD – Business Advisory trip to Hamill Family Play Zoo to learn the Nature Start principles of Early Learning.

FIRE SCIENCE/EMT – Held first annual Fire Science Challenge, participated in Pathways to Results (POR) improving the fire science Program of Study (POS), and attended a business advisory meeting at the March in-service event.

GRAPHICS COMMUNICATIONS – Meeting to review articulated credit. Business advisory field trip to Rule 29 followed by meeting to discuss Graphics Student of the Year competition and Graphic Communications Digital Photography Boot Camp held for half days June 6-8, 2016.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – Tour of Indian Valley Vocational Center’s Health Wing and meeting to discuss articulated credit, curriculum review and professional development planning.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/CRIMINAL JUSTICE—Meeting to discuss articulated credit and best practices.

TECNOLOGY & ENGINEERING EDUCATION (INDUSTRIAL) – Reviewed articulated credit agreements and planned for regional Student of the Year competition, held first regional Welding Student of the Year Competition with approximately 40 student participants, business advisory breakfast with local professionals to discuss the value of credentials and certifications, work based opportunities and curriculum review. Business Advisory trip to TOX Pressotechnik and EN Engineering to discuss career pathways in engineering and CAD/Drafting and machining.

STEERING – Business and industry visits to 25 N Coworking and Delnor Community Hospital. Met to discuss FY17 grant allocations and tour the recent Yorkville High School addition and renovation.

STUDENT SERVICES –Met to review articulated credit agreements, Career Cruising usage and planning for professional development. Professional development offered to give advanced Career Cruising training with e-transcript, data and application tracking modules. A second more introductory training event was also held for CTE teachers or new users of Career Cruising. Dr. Toni Tollerud gave a lecture on empathy and compassion. Hosted the Summer Counselor Institute June 21-22, 2016, toured Monsanto facility, Aurora Municipal Airport and the Paramount Theater to explore different career pathways for students.

CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE – All schools were given the opportunity to write for a mini-grant to attend the Connections Conference in St. Charles. Members from 6 schools attended the Connections Conference. Expenses were paid by mini-grants offered by VALEES through the Perkins and CTEI grants.

Section 14

TEACHER LICENSURE

VALEES is an ISBE approved provider and offers several ways for teachers to earn PD's (Professional Development) toward renewing their teaching licenses including active participation in regional program committees, attending professional development workshops and conferences throughout the year.

Section 15

JOINT ACTIVITIES

The following activities were a result of a collaborative partnership among VALEES and the entities listed:

Graduate Classes

Aurora University
Kane County regional Office of Education

Community Services Fair

Kendall County Special Education Cooperative

Program Committee In-Services

Three Rivers Education for Employment System (TREES)
Kane County Regional Office of Education
Northern Illinois University
Waubonsee Community College

Career Pathways Expo

Area High Schools
Waubonsee Community College

“Did You Know” Manufacturing Career Awareness Event

Area High Schools
Waubonsee Community College
VIA (Valley Industrial Association)
12 Local manufacturing businesses

Section 16

SPECIAL PROJECTS/SERVICES

Illinois Student Course System (ISCS)

VALEES provides CTEC (Career and Technical Education Courses) services for twenty member schools. Data on student course enrollment is reviewed for accuracy and any anomalies are resolved with the member districts. Data reported yearly to ISBE from Student Information System (SIS) determines the level of career and technical education funding for each district.

CAREER CRUISING

Software licenses in English and Spanish for Career Cruising software were provided to all VALEES high schools through the VALEES office. Professional development is provided on a regional level through workshops and in-services.

KEYTRAIN

VALEES provides software licenses in partnership with member schools, professional development, including teacher and administrator training, on both regional and local educational agency levels are provided.

MINI-GRANTS

35 mini-grants totaling \$35,062.00 were awarded to support Career and Technical Education Improvement initiatives focusing on the regional priorities of (1) Career Pathways and Programs of Study, (2) Integrating Common Core Standards in CTE, and (3) Strengthening Employability Skills.

Section 17

STUDENT PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY SERVICES FAIR

The Community Service Fair was held on April 30, 2016 and was a great success with attendance of over 150 students/parents and 40 exhibitors. The guest speaker was Sherri Schneider, from Family Benefit Solutions and representatives from Prairie Clinic presented on transitioning from youth to adulthood for students on the Autism Spectrum as well. Evaluations determined that this was a very well received event.

CAREER PATHWAYS EXPO

On Friday, October 9, 2015, over 325 students from local high schools including: Batavia, Earlville, East Aurora, Geneva, Kaneland, Leland, Newark, Oswego East, Paw Paw, Somonauk and West Aurora participated in a day-long Career Pathways Expo at Waubonsee Community College.

Students chose from 16 career pathways with over 50 Waubonsee Community College faculty and staff presenting, guiding and performing.

High school students participated in demonstrations such as TV studio camera work, kiln and pottery work, EMT and firefighting training, massage therapy, and manufacturing robotics; met with experienced faculty professionals; toured instructional laboratories; and discussed wage information, skills and abilities of entry-level workers.

“DID YOU KNOW” Manufacturing Career Awareness Event

On Friday, October 23, 2015, VALEES regional high school students participated in the Valley Industrial Association's Manufacturing Career Awareness Event. Over 350 students from regional high schools attended the event. Participating students toured area manufacturers and twelve companies participated.

Early Childhood Education Visit Day

On October 23, 2015 over 160 high school students in ECE programs participated in professional development workshops, toured Waubonsee Community College, and heard from a panel of current college students about the post-secondary and career options in Early Childhood Education.

Fox Valley Fire Science Challenge

On April 29, 2016 students enrolled in Fire Science classes at Fox Valley Career Center, Indian Valley Vocational Center and Waubensee Community College competed in a Fire Science challenge hosted by the Oswego Fire Protection District. IVVC students took top honors at the inaugural event and the participating schools have committed to making this an annual event.

Welding Student of the Year Competition

The Fox Valley Career Center hosted the first annual 'Welding Student of the Year' competition on March 16, 2016. Around 40 students from IVVC and FVCC participated in the competition and business advisory partners from 9 companies contributed to the event by donating either time as judges or prizes for winners. Feedback from students, teachers and business partners was very positive.

Graphic Student of the Year Competition

On April 19, 2016 several outstanding high school graphic communication students, nominated by their respective teachers, competed to be named 'Graphics Student of the Year.' Several business advisory members attended the event and selected the student award recipient. This year a student from Oswego High School was chosen for the award. The event was considered a success and plans to continue this competition annually are fully supported by everyone involved.

Living miDream

Living miDream engages students in exploring methods, tools and resources to build capacity necessary for breakthrough thinking. Teams of students and teachers explore the essential questions: (1) Who am I? (2) Where do I want to go? (3) How might I get there?, and (4) What difference will I make? Participants explore their personal career pathway and develop an action plan. Students, teachers and mentors participated in 5 all day Living miDream workshops.

Section 18

COLLEGE CREDIT ARTICULATION

Articulation Agreements are in place between VALEES and Waubensee Community College; Elgin Community College; Kishwaukee College and Joliet Junior College for:

Accounting	Agriculture
Auto Body Repair	Automotive Technology
Business & Technology	CAD/Drafting
Clothing & Fashion Design	Construction
Criminal Justice	Early Childhood Education
Fire Science	Foods
Graphic Design	Health Occupations
Horticulture	Welding
Web Page Development	

Specific courses that articulate are listed on the VALEES website, www.valees.org. Articulated credit is specifically targeted at WCC new student orientation sessions.

Section 19

WEB SITE

www.valees.org

A VALEES website links member schools, to Waubonsee Community College, to the Regional Office of Education, and to the Illinois State Board of Education. The website contains informative items about VALEES such as general information, calendar, program committees, various forms, course information, professional development opportunities, student organizations, articulation information, Programs of Study, and career and technical educational resources. VALEES also has social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, and Smugmug.