



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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SUBJECT: President Obama recognizes KMSD for youth apprenticeship efforts

Wales, Wis. – President Barack Obama visited the General Electric (GE) plant in Waukesha last week, talking about jobs and minimum wage as part of a four-stop tour he’s making to expand upon themes he addressed in the State of the Union.

Local manufacturer GE, and GPS Education Partners – an organization that works to create partnerships between local businesses and education – were recognized by the president for their collaborative efforts with the Kettle Moraine School District to create manufacturing youth apprenticeship opportunities for students at Kettle Moraine High School (KMHS).

“We’re here because you’re doing some really good stuff that everyone else needs to pay attention to,” Obama said during his speech. “Together, with a local High School, you started a youth apprenticeship program. So, students spend four hours a day in classroom, four hours a day on the shop floor and after two years they leave with both a high school diploma and a technical certificate.”

For over a year now, GPS Education Parents and GE have provided an alternative learning environment for KMHS students, providing them with a balance between hands-on experience and classroom work, as well as a chance to open doors to employment and earn technical college credit. There is a similar learning facility at Generac in Eagle.

“It’s gratifying to have the President of the United States recognize an innovative program that is meeting the needs of our students and our business partners,” said Pat Deklotz, superintendent of the Kettle Moraine School District. “Through the work of GPS Education Partners and their collaboration with GE and Generac, our students have been able to participate in an Advanced Manufacturing Certificate pathway that provides them with a high school diploma, technical apprenticeship and advanced standing at Waukesha County Technical College. This program is opening doors for our young people.”

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