



Avon Maitland District School Board

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, JODIE BAKER

A special thank you to everyone who came out and supported the 2nd annual Pathways event hosted at Central Huron Secondary School this week, I was absolutely thrilled with the turnout! We started Pathways Nights in Huron and Perth counties when we realized we needed to increase awareness of high school programs and pathway options for students in elementary and secondary schools and their families. This year, we were able to successfully showcase the programs along with local community and education partners, and it is my hopes that the event will continue to grow and include more local employers!

All of the 5 pathways - Community Living, Workplace, Apprenticeship, College and University - available to students were represented. Local employers and community partners showcased their work, and supports for school programs and future employees, and we had Lambton College's welding simulator trailer available to students across our board throughout the week. With the coordinated efforts of Jim Brintnell, Dual Credit Teacher and school staffs over 400 students passed through the trailer prior to Pathways Night!

Avon Maitland's Student Success/Pathways staff were on hand to promote secondary programs such as Co-op, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) and Dual Credit. Staff provided information on mental health supports, 40 hour community involvement requirements for graduation, and the use of MyBlueprint for students.

University of Waterloo and Conestoga College had display tables to promote post-secondary opportunities. The universities are currently on the road promoting their programs at information nights across the province, so only one local university was able to attend.

This event truly was a team effort, and we want to thank school staff, student hosts, and all of the local organizations and employers who supported this event. A special thank you to McGavin Farm Equipment who donated the generators to run the Lambton College interactive trailer and Jake Pickett of Redline Trucks who hauled the trailer to CHSS, FE Madill Secondary, and South Huron District High School over the past 3 days.

AMDSB Pathways Coordinator Mark Roth believes that part of the reason for the successful attendance was the result of Pathways Information presentations to grades 7,8 and 9 classes in Huron County public schools over the past couple of weeks. There is a shortage of skilled workers across Huron and Perth counties, so Mark is hopeful that the welding simulators helped to engage some students who might consider a career in the skilled trades.

Pathways Night also featured Centre for Employment and Learning, Contact North, Farm Credit Canada, Huron Tractor, and Advanced Masonry Techniques who were present to engage students in discussions about their work. We are so thrilled with the support of our partners.

Jodie Baker
Superintendent of Education
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