



July 1, 2009

Ms. Sylvia Wetzel
Vice President, Bullock Properties
Bison Gear and Engineering

Dear Sylvia:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for hosting a team of teachers from the Aurora University graduate level class, "Making the Connection/Workplace Skills Integration" on Monday, June 22. All of the teachers and counselors returned to class enthusiastic and invigorated after meeting with you and learning more about the "World of Manufacturing" from you and all of the other outstanding Bison Gear team members who joined us. Seeing manufacturing alive and well, and in full steam ahead mode and action, had an unbelievable impact. It continues to amaze me how "clueless" some teachers and counselors are to careers! They had numerous complimentary comments to make following the visit.

It is vitally important to continually raise the awareness of educators to the academic and job specific skills necessary for successfully obtaining employment and remaining employed in a manufacturing career. Together, we must continue to defend manufacturing in our county, state and nation as viable careers for young people. I so appreciate the knowledge and professionalism shared by each of you who spoke to the group and demonstrated the "realities and relevancy" of manufacturing as it plays out in our every day lives!

This visit assisted the teachers/counselors to also guide their students in developing appropriate career options and plans for post-secondary education, as well as lifelong learning, in the rapidly changing and highly technical workplace. We are truly not two worlds, "education and work." We are one world called, "life." Thank you for the time you took to meet with the class, tour the facility, as well as the time you took to plan for the visit. Your knowledge is extraordinary! You helped all of us to work with the future workforce. We, as educators, hold this future in the palm of our hands on a daily basis. It is our responsibility to give them the appropriate roots and wings to be successful when they leave us to transition to the next level of life. Thank you for "rooting" these educators and empowering them to fly back to the nest very well fed with knowledge and excitement. Your presentation was "Awesome."

When we processed what was learned at each visit it was easy to identify the relevance between what we teach and what is required in the workplace. The knowledge gained from your input enabled these educators to integrate new concepts into their curriculum.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to continuing our mission next year.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Palicki

Sheryl Palicki, MS
Adjunct Professor, Aurora University
Technology Center of DuPage
Work Based Learning Coordinator