



## Southwest Tech District Tour Launched in Richland Center

President Duane Ford and Derek Dachelet, Director of External Relations, spent an entire day in Richland Center getting to know and listening to the people, businesses and manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, schools, health care organizations, first responders, community leaders, students and alumni, donors, and all others served by, connected to, or somehow interested in Southwest Tech.

This was the first of what will be many visits to Richland Center and all the other cities, towns, counties, and communities in Southwest Tech's District.

Southwest Tech provides learning opportunities in response to the workforce and training needs of our District. President Ford stated, "To be responsive and relevant we need to be constantly listening and talking to the people in our District about their aspirations, needs, interests, and opportunities and then shaping our work to align with what our District needs and wants. We also cannot do it without the support and help we have been enjoying and, I am sure, will continue to enjoy from so many volunteers, donors, and friends. As President I am eager to be known and present in Southwest Wisconsin's communities and available to those interested and wanting to talk to me."

Meegan Thompson, Director of the Richland Chamber and Development Alliance, shared information on area economic and business development needs and opportunities.



Ron Fruit recorded an interview and provided a tour of WRCO.



Richland Center Foundry Vice-President of Operations John Gerszewski and Southwest Tech alumna Karen Knoble, Human Resource Manager welcomed the visitors. Stephanie Dull a Southwest Tech Accounting and Business Management student was seen working at the Foundry as an intern.

Lindsay Peterson, Human Resources Representative, and Kathy Coppernoll, Testing Division Supervisor hosted a visit at Rockwell Automation. Last fall the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board awarded Rockwell Automation a Futuremakers Partner Award in recognition of the more than \$100,000 in equipment and supplies it has donated to Southwest Tech's skilled-trade programs and the Electromechanical Program Scholarship it has sponsored.



Rachel Schultz, District Administrator, discussed articulation and other partnership opportunities and provided a tour of the Richland School District's magnificent high school building.

Southwest Tech Board of Directors Member Rhonda Sutton, a Richland Center resident and Director of Human Resources at The Richland Hospital, spent the day on the tour as well.

