



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

CTE Students attend Petrochemical Conference

Career and Technical Education (CTE) students from along the Gulf Coast were invited by the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region to attend the 5th Annual Petrochemical Maritime Outlook Conference. CTE students, along with 620 business and industry attendees, gained knowledge and insight about future career opportunities in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Maritime industry. Representatives from LyondellBasell, Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings, Kaneka, Texas Chemical Council and Shell Oil provided students with information about the number of petrochemical expansions taking place along the Gulf Coast region and the positive effects these expansions will have on the job market and local, state and national economy.

The Transportation and Logistics panel, consisting of executives from Buffalo Marine Services, Port Terminal Railroad Association, Vopak and Kirby Corporation spoke about the growth and infrastructure sustainability the petrochemical expansions will contribute to the barge, rail and liquid bulk storage and transfer sectors of the Houston Port region.

In addition, students heard Congressman Randy Weber (14th District), Congressman Gene Green (29th District), U.S. Senator John Cornyn and Dr. Bryan W. Shaw, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chair, address a variety of current legislative issues concerning the logistics of oil and gas distribution as well as environmental regulations.

International guest speaker Silvia deMarucci presented a Panama Canal Authority update, which allowed CTE students to make connections about the positive economic impact this project is expected to bring to this region and about the careers which will be in the highest demand.

The Infinity Group, one of the region's leading plant service companies, sponsored a table of eight area students, including Goose Creek CISD CTE STEM Academy students Patrick Cooper, Drayton Sherrill, Angel Molina and James Rice.



Area students had the opportunity to attend the recent 5th Annual Petrochemical Maritime Outlook Conference. Pictured are (front, l to r) Andrew Hall from La Porte ISD; Patrick Cooper, Drayton Sherrill, James Rice and Angel Molina from Goose Creek CISD, (back, l to r) Roger Blackburn of the Infinity Group, Jacob Block and Noah Gonzales from La Porte, Charlie Hawthorne from Deer Park ISD and Representative Wayne Smith (back right).

La Porte ISD Business Management/Homeland Security students Chelsea Honeycutt and Andrew Hall and CTE Maritime Academy students Noah Gonzales and Jacob Block also attended, along with Deer Park ISD CTE Process Technology student Charlie Hawthorne.

Accompanying the Goose Creek students were Renee Cosby, Global Business, Logistics, and Transportation Academy Specialist from Goose Creek Memorial High School; Lindsey Marek, STEM Academy Specialist; Jennifer Guillory, College and Career Readiness Counselor at Robert E. Lee High School; Peter Cushman, Baytown Junior School, Sea Scouts Coordinator at REL and Melissa Botkin, CTE Student Workforce Liaison.

"This was a relevant experience for our students. They could connect the information they received with what they learn in the classroom," said Botkin.

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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