

MINNESOTA youth APPRENTICESHIP

Opening a World of Possibilities

“The apprenticeship program is a great opportunity for students to further their education.” – Blair, student, Albert Lea High School

Meet Blair, a high school junior and a participant in the Albert Lea Youth Apprenticeship Program, which combines high school classes in industrial technology with work experience in the manufacturing field. Blair has earned praise for both his academic and on-the-job success.

Blair jumped at the chance to join the program after learning that he could get paid and earn school credit while exploring a career in manufacturing, a field that he’s interested in.

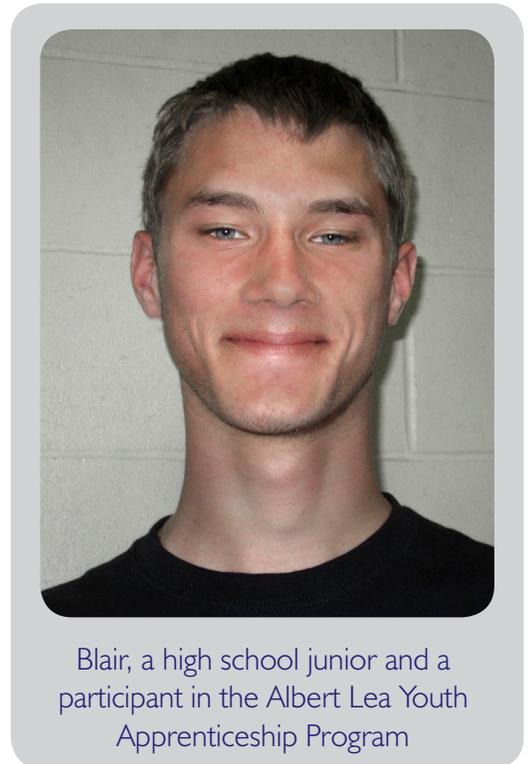
Now, at the Lou-Rich plant in Albert Lea, Blair will receive exposure to operations across the plant and is currently assembling parts for tractors and medical diagnostic equipment. What he learns in the classroom, such as problem solving and understanding blue prints, is applied at his job.

Assistant high school principal, Johanna Thomas says the program provides an opportunity for students to explore an area they have excelled in and places them in a real-world environment that cannot be replicated in the class room.

Lou-Rich, a contract manufacturing business, seeks to expand the pool of qualified workers to replace an increasing number of skilled employees who are expected to retire within five to 10 years. Working with students like Blair can be part of the solution to a workforce shortage.

Blair is especially interested in a career in welding, in which he excels, having placed fifth from a field of approximately 200 students in the Riverland Welding Competition in 2013 and ninth in 2012. “I would love to go to different parts of the world for welding [jobs],” he says.

Blair plans to continue exploring manufacturing as a career through participating in the program in the 2013-2014 school year.



Blair, a high school junior and a participant in the Albert Lea Youth Apprenticeship Program

For more information about the youth apprenticeship program, contact

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