



# SARALAND Board of Education

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Saraland Hosts 2017 Alabama CTE State Tour Event**

SARALAND, AL (Feb. 24, 2017) -- Saraland City Schools is pleased to have been selected as one of 14 host schools for the Alabama State Department of Education's 2017 Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Tour that began on February 10 to celebrate the impact CTE is having in preparing students for academic and workforce success.

Saraland High School hosted the tour yesterday, highlighting its welding; engineering; health sciences; food, wellness, and dietetics; and business management and administration programs. The visit also included a tour of the recently constructed 28,000 sq. ft. addition. The event was attended by representatives from the business industry, as well as local and state government officials.

Guests at the event were welcomed by Beverly Spondike, principal of Saraland High School, and Dr. Aaron Milner, superintendent of Saraland City Schools. Spondike emphasized, "The Saraland City School System strives to provide a world-class education for all students. Our career technical education programs allow Saraland students to be trained, certified, and prepared for future career opportunities. There are currently 476 students enrolled in CTE programs at Saraland High School." Dr. Milner elaborated on the featured programs, Saraland achievements, and thanked the Alabama Legislature for supporting CTE through bond initiatives. Those in attendance also observed students in classrooms where students explained goals, activities, and accomplishments from the multiple programs offered in Saraland.

Since Saraland High School opened in 2010, CTE programs have expanded to include the five programs offered today. Students enrolled in these programs aim to earn the respective industry credential which includes ServSafe, Microsoft Office Specialist, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and NCCER Welding. During the 2015-2016 school year, 108 Saraland students earned one of these career ready indicator credentials.

"The advancements we have made in the past four years are a tribute to a great community that decided to make an investment in its children. In addition, these opportunities would not have been possible without the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bond and the cooperation of Dr. Cleveland and Alabama Department of Education staff. The investment of our local community and state will lead Saraland students into meaningful careers," stated Dr. Milner.

The tour began in Houston County and will end in Limestone County at the end of the month. It is part of the recent proclamation made by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley making February Alabama's Career and Technical Education Month. Dr. Kristen Sousa, the director of career and technical education in Saraland summed up the experience, "The system is honored to have been selected as one of the 14 high schools/career technical centers to participate in the tour. This event aligns with Saraland's vision to build a world class educational system for all students."

"Building a World Class Educational System for Our Children"