

Aug. 10, 2015

Ribbon cut to commemorate opening of The Career Academy

Two days before high school juniors and seniors will enter The Career Academy, ribbons were cut Monday morning to commemorate the opening of the facility, a partnership between Southeast Community College, Lincoln Public Schools and business and industry.

Numerous dignitaries were on hand to officially open the building, located on SCC's Lincoln Campus at 8800 O St. Gov. Pete Ricketts, U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer and Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler were among those who spoke about the need for the facility and how it will help shape the future economy of the region.

The Career Academy has been developed throughout the last couple of years and is comprised of 16 career pathways. Approximately 350 high school juniors and seniors from LPS, Lincoln parochial schools and school districts outside Lincoln will begin classes Aug. 12 in the facility. A two-hour session in the morning and a two-hour session in the afternoon will be held initially.

A crowd estimated at nearly 400 people attended Monday's ribbon-cutting, highlighted by short speeches by Ricketts, Fischer, Beutler and a host of others, including Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president, and Dr. Steve Joel, LPS superintendent. Other speakers were Dr. Dale Kruse, vice chairperson of SCC's Board of Governors; and Lanny Boswell, a member of the LPS Board of Education. Boswell, Kruse, Joel, and Illich comprise the TCA's Joint Board.

Loran Stara, a technical sergeant for the Nebraska National Guard, presented a flag to TCA that had flown over a portion of the Middle East where he recently was stationed. He then led the audience in reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance."

Anthony Marks, a senior at Lincoln Southwest High School and a student in the LPS Entrepreneurship Focus Program since his freshman year, also spoke. He said he was excited to get to take classes in the facility.

Illich singled out Dr. Jack Huck, former SCC president, for his vision for TCA and for stepping up and saying "this can happen" as he worked out details with Joel and other community members.

Numerous representatives from businesses and industries who have made contributions to TCA, either in the form of money or equipment, also were in attendance. Representatives from two corporate sponsors, Union Bank & Trust and Bison Inc., also spoke. Kevin Keller with UB&T and Nick Cusick with Bison talked about the vision for the facility and the impact it will have on the future of Lincoln and southeast Nebraska.

Dr. Dan Hohensee, director of TCA, served as emcee.

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