



## Bowman T4 event draws over 900 area students

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By Paula Richter



Welding 101 with facilitators from Gooseneck, Inc and Randy's  
Welding observe the student welding.  
Photo Credit David Horn

Bowman County Fair Grounds were teeming with T4 event activity, Wednesday and Thursday.

T4 (Tools, Trades, Torque, Tech) is an organization that sets up opportunities for students to look at careers and actually do some of the things that would be required in those careers.

Over 900 students from 11 different schools ran different kinds of equipment, determined feed value for livestock feed, wired an electrical outlet and did a host of other activities that directly relate to careers they could choose in the future.

Facilitators in 24 different stations gave the students hands-on experience in very diverse career pursuits. All the stations were scheduled at the same time with about 20 students in each. The groups rotated through various stations with their school counselor/ guide. The sessions lasted for 40 minutes each, two in the morning and two after the picnic lunch was served.

At one time, two big tractors (6195RJD and 6215RJD) with loaders were zooming toward the students with a drone hovering above them. It was like something from a movie! The tractors were demonstrating turn automation, presetting the tractor to make the turns without help from the driver (students were riding IN the tractors)! The drone could be used to help set up the pattern. It had literally hundreds of applications related to farming.



Students take part in the dental demonstration section. Photo Credit David Horn

In a totally different station, another drone demonstrated its skill in finding things and in evading obstructions. Students at that station also ran flight simulators.

At another station, the 412R Sprayer with the See and Spray technology, one of only four in North America, was set up for the students to sit in and watch the spray booms work.

Students were welding at another station.

There was more going on here than at Grand Central Station, but it was all very well organized.

First, in the mornings of both days, Alison Hoff, Bowman High School Senior, introduced Wayne Heckaman, Bowman High School Superintendent who welcomed all the students (500 Wednesday and 450 Thursday).



Bowman students learn to operate the aerial lift in a simulated situation facilitated by Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest. Photo Credit David Horn

Teran Doerr, Executive Director of the Bowman County Development Corporation spoke to the students, asking them to think about the career choices they might want to choose.

Kent Ellis, T4 Director, then told them what they could expect when they went to their sessions. Pam Fisher, Counselor at the Bowman School visited with the group and sent them on to their sessions.

Fisher and Tyler Senn, Bowman Principal, were both instrumental in having the Bowman Schools joined by Bowman County Development Corporation host the T4 conference. Other factions on the planning committee were Alicia Hess and Jenna Ridl from Gooseneck, Inc.; Allison Anderson from Southwest Healthcare Services; Amber Anderson from Brosz Engineering, Cami Janikowski from Bowman- Slope Soil Conservation District and the board of directors from the Bowman County Fair Association all working together on this amazing opportunity for students.



T4 Event Leaders following the successful two-day T4 event. Front: Marilyn Kipp, T4 coordinator. Back (L to R) Bowman School Counselor Pam Fisher, Bowman School Principal Tyler Senn and Kent Ellis, T4 Director. Photo Credit David Horn

The 24 sessions included: Surveying with Robotics, GPS and Drone (Brosz Engineering); Electrical Construction Careers (IBEW); Serial Lift Simulation (Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest); Hands on Dental Assisting (ND Dental Foundation); Precision Agriculture & Animal Production (Bismarck St. College Polytechnic Institute); Electrical Circuit Assembly Power Generation (Bismarck St. College Polytechnic Institute); Digging up millions of tons of soil (Lignite Energy Council); Wizard Electronics (ND Petroleum Foundation); Ropes (ND Army National Guard); Changing world of Aviation (ND Aeronautics Commission/Career and Technical Center); Your ambulance and how it works (SW Healthcare Service); Mechanics 101 (Gooseneck, Inc.); Dream It Do It (SW ND Manufacturer's Group); Newspapers – marketing to consumers (Gooseneck, Inc.); Field Data for decisions in the office (Gooseneck, Inc.); Law Enforcement (Bowman Police Department); Power Plant Puzzle (ND Lignite Council);



The Grand Forks drone hovering in front of the facilitator for North Dakota Aeronautics Commission while Daryl Hill received flight instructions. Photo Credit David Horn

Agronomy (Scranton Equity Exchange); ND Highway Patrol (ND Highway Patrol); Welding 101 (Gooseneck, Inc and Randy's Welding); Today's Farming or Science Fiction? (Gooseneck, Inc.); Jobs in the Agriculture industry (Gooseneck, Inc.); Be Smart! (NDDOT) and Milling and Machining Metal (Kent Ellis).

Each of the facilitators donated their time to this huge and action packed project.

The T4 program began several years ago when Kent Ellis and Marilyn Kipp (coordinator for this event) both sat down with Industry leaders to find out what they need for people and how to best help young

people prepare for the different careers in those different industries. They had a T4 event earlier this year in April at Watford City.

Bowman really turned out for this event. The Bowman Lions Club, individuals from Dollars for Scholars and other townspeople served the lunch which people from Dakota Community Bank and people from Jacam Catalyst grilled.

Sponsors for this event were: ONEOK, Pembina, Riverbend Oil & Gas, Whiting, Aux Sable, ConocoPhillips, Hess Corporation, Lignite Energy Council, NDOGRP, NDPC, Oasis. Local collaborating partners: Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bowman County Development Corporation, Bowman County Fair Association, Bowman Slope Soil Conservation District, Bronson's Marketplace, Brosz Engineering Inc., Career Academy & Technical Center, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Dickinson,

Coyle Electric, Dakota Community Bank, Dickinson Ready Mix, Dickinson State University, Jacam Catalyst, Lions International, Pepsi, Scranton Equity, Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

Over 900 students from 11 schools went home from this T4 event with exposure to many different pursuits. They at least have a hint of what they could look forward to in the future. Even though it took major planning and a lot of work, this is an event we hope to see again next year.