

**PIONEERING PARTNERS EVENT
ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL
9:45 A.M.**

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE !

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY AND WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR ALPHA CENTER. YOU SHOULD BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. TECHNOLOGY CERTAINLY ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS.

THE ALPHA CENTER IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE WHEN PEOPLE CREATE HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS. WITHOUT THE COOPERATION FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, BUSINESSES AND THE ENTIRE ATHENS COMMUNITY THE ALPHA CENTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CREATED AND BUILT.

PARTNERSHIPS ARE WHAT WISCONSIN IS ALL ABOUT. PEOPLE WITH GREAT IDEAS THAT COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES AND STATE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY.

I AM HERE TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THE NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN SCHOOL TO WORK CONSORTIUM'S TOURISM YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE STARTING THIS SCHOOL YEAR IN 4 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS; ABBOTSFORD, EDGAR AND MOSINEE AND RIGHT HERE IN ATHENS.

TOURISM IS THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES. IN WISCONSIN, TOURISM IS ONE OF THE TOP THREE INDUSTRIES. TRAVELERS SPEND OVER \$6.7 BILLION ANNUALLY IN OUR GREAT STATE. IN MARATHON COUNTY ALONE, TOURISM GENERATES OVER \$109 MILLION ANNUALLY AND BUSINESSES EMPLOY OVER 2,100 PEOPLE.

WISCONSIN'S TOURISM INDUSTRY IS THE FIRST IN THE NATION TO IMPLEMENT A YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR HIGHLY SKILLED PERSONNEL.

FIVE STUDENTS WILL BE EMPLOYED BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES: ABBY INN IN ABBOTSFORD, BUDGETEL IN WAUSAU, RAMADA INN IN WAUSAU, HAMPTON INN IN WAUSAU AND AMERIHOTEL IN MOSINEE.

THE YOUTH APPRENTICES WILL LEARN FIRST-HAND, FROM A MENTOR, THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO FIND ENTRY-LEVEL EMPLOYMENT IN A TOURISM INDUSTRY.

WISCONSIN'S YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM SUCCESS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER ALL OVER THE STATE. WOULD ALL THE PARTNERS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE STATE'S YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM PLEASE STAND UP.

[PAUSE]

CONGRATUATIONS!

**WE HAVE EMPLOYERS, MENTORS, STUDENTS,
SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND LOCAL
COORDINATORS. WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE THEM A
HAND FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND
SUPPORT FOR WISCONSIN'S YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAM.**

**THERE IS ONE SPECIAL PERSON THAT I WOULD LIKE TO
RECOGNIZE. WOULD DWALA [DAH-WA-LAH] SMAIL
PLEASE COME UP. DWALA IS THE LOCAL YOUTH
APPRENTICESHIP COORDINATOR WHO HAS DONE AN
FANTASTIC JOB.**

[READ HER PLAQUE.]

THANK YOU DWALA FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT AND HARD WORK.

I HAVE 3 MORE CERTIFICATES TO GIVE OUT. WOULD PAT KELLEY, BOB LANGE AND DONLEY NISKANEN [NISK-AN-IN] PLEASE COME UP HERE.

IT WAS BECAUSE OF THESE 3 GENTLEMEN THAT I HEARD ABOUT THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING AT ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL. ... I MET THEM IN BLOOMINGTON INDIANA AT THE 1996 PIONEERING PARTNERS SUMMIT. ... THEY WERE ONE OF 3 TEAMS FROM WISCONSIN THAT HAD BEEN AWARDED A PIONEERING PARTNERS GRANT. THEY TALKED ABOUT THE ALPHA CENTER AND ASKED IF I WOULD COME AND VISIT IT SOMEDAY.

**THEY DON'T GIVE UP! I SAW THEM AGAIN IN JULY AT THIS
SUMMER'S PIONEERING PARTNERS SUMMIT IN
CINCINNATI, OHIO, AND THEY REMINDED ME THAT THE
INVITATION WAS STILL THERE FOR ME TO COME TO VISIT
ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL ... SO HERE I AM!**

[READ ONE OF THEIR PLAQUES]

**I ALSO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WINNER OF THE
1998 OUTSTANDING SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES ... MR. WALTER
URBANEK [ER-BAN-IK] FROM THE EDGAR SCHOOL
DISTRICT.**

[READ PLAQUE]

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU! THE FUTURE OF
TOURISM HAS NEVER LOOKED BRIGHTER.**