

**Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Visits Manufacturing and Culinary Programs Students
at Fort Vancouver High School**

Congresswoman Tours Career and Technical Education Programs

For immediate release

January 3, 2024 - Vancouver, WA - Today, Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez visited Vancouver Public Schools' Fort Vancouver High School as part of her continued work to support Career and Technical Education programs across her district. Fort Vancouver High School is home to a variety of half-day Career and Technical education programs including Advanced Manufacturing, Medical Arts, Culinary Arts and Careers in Education. On her tour, she spent time in the Advanced Manufacturing and Culinary Arts classrooms where she met instructors and students to learn about the programs and hear students talk about their experiences.

Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez has worked in the trades and sees the value of preparing students for opportunities in these fields. It's her goal to make pathways to the trades easier for students and she introduced legislation to help small businesses recruit CTE grads and support them in starting their own businesses.

"Careers in the trades demand a high level of skill and expertise. The instructors at Vancouver Public Schools are helping gifted students have an incredible leg up in succeeding at these challenging careers," said Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez. "I appreciate the warm welcome from CTE students and educators at Fort Vancouver High School, and I enjoyed discussing how we can support these programs on a federal level and continue to meet the high demand from students. I'm continuing to work in Congress to ensure students learn about opportunities in the trades and can be connected to good-paying jobs after they graduate."

Vancouver Public Schools understands the importance of providing career and technical opportunities for students, and CTE programs have been an integral part of the curriculum for decades. Interest in these programs has increased as opportunities for careers in the trades are growing in Washington state with strong labor forecasts along with high wages.

"We are grateful that Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is interested in learning more about our CTE programs, and we appreciate her support for improving the student pathways to careers in the trades," said Mark Wreath, Career and Technical Education Director.

The application period for Vancouver Public Schools' Career and Technical Education programs opened for the 2024-25 school year today. Each program will be hosting an open house this month and complete information about the programs available is on the VPS website:

vansd.org/choices

About Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is a fifth-generation Washingtonian, former small business owner, and working mom who represents Southwest Washington in Congress. In Congress, Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez is fighting to support career and technical education and the trades, protect the right to repair, and level the playing field for working families like hers.

About Vancouver Public Schools CTE Programs

VPS offers a wide variety of Choice Programs that focus on career and technical skills, including Advanced Manufacturing, Construction Trades, Medical Arts, Culinary Arts and Careers in Education. Complete details of the opportunities for students are on the VPS website at vansd.org/choices.

Video footage and photos are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hHJT5kgkpg7O-tYQyl_tHB5t-K11oPwb

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