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October 9, 2014

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[Encouraging High School Students to Pursue Manufacturing, STEM Skills and STEM Careers](#)

There is a wide open world of career opportunities in manufacturing and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields right here in the 14th District, but many high school students don't know about them or haven't been shown a vision of what their future could be like. That's why I encouraged high school students from Central High School in Burlington, Oswego High School, and homeschooling students to stay focused in school and open their eyes to the great jobs and careers available in Illinois' manufacturing sector for those with STEM skills.

Together, we visited Bison Gear in St. Charles during the Manufacture Your Future initiative which shows students real life examples of fulfilling and well-paying careers. Bison parts are found in everything from ice machines to manufacturing plants. Seeing how the shop floor functioned alongside those students reminded me again that for many, college isn't on the horizon, and there are great alternatives to a four-year degree.



(Rep. Hultgren and Central High School students learn about Bison Gear processes)



(Rep. Hultgren with Central High School Students at Bison Gear)

SciTech Museum in Aurora, which hosts 100,000 visitors every year, helps inspire kids to dream big about the job possibilities within STEM fields.



(Arlene Hawks, SciTech's Executive Director, demonstrates an exhibit for students)

I was glad to congratulate Jake Cirino, the 14th District House App Contest winner, whose inventiveness demonstrates what our next generation of science and technology-focused innovators can offer.



(Rep. Hultgren presents a certificate to Jake Cirino of Oswego High School, 14th District Winner of the House App Contest)

New Initiative will help Boost Chicago Area Exports

Speaking of job opportunities in Illinois industries, I was thrilled at the launch of [Metro Chicago Exports](#), a regional collaboration that will help small and medium enterprises throughout the 14th Congressional District find and take advantage of export opportunities, and strengthen the Chicagoland area's network of regional service providers.

Some of the world's premier products are made right here in Illinois, and the collar counties of Chicago are primed to boost their production and exports. But it is imperative our region reach its full exporting potential. This new initiative targets firms that are ripe to export their goods, helps them navigate the confusing array of compliance procedures, and reduces obstacles faced by small firms when trying to reach new markets.

I have great hope this initiative is the next step in helping Illinois businesses expand their operations, hire more workers and get our economy back in its feet again.

Recognized as Guardian of Small Business

I was honored to be named a Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business association. I grew up in a family funeral home, and many residents of the 14th District work at family-owned small businesses. I will continue to support them and defend them from overreaching government at all levels.



(Rep. Hultgren accepts award from NFIB President and CEO Dan Danner)

Save the Date!

I will be hosting two upcoming forums for the benefit of the 14th District. On **Monday, October 20** I will be hosting a forum for Illinois veterans, their spouses and their families on how to identify and avoid consumer scams and protect oneself and one's family from medical, charity or identify fraud or theft.

The event, held at VFW Post 5036 in St. Charles, will allow veterans to hear directly from fraud experts on where to find local assistance and what protections are already available under state and federal laws.

Human trafficking, and especially sex slavery, targets the youngest and most vulnerable in society. Unfortunately, it isn't isolated to distant lands far from our shores; it is happening right here in the United States, in Chicago, and increasingly in our own communities. It is critical to understand the extent of the problem in order to confront it and determine how each of us can play a role in successfully combating it.

To that end, I will be hosting a forum on **Thursday, October 23** at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva to help educate the public and raise awareness about sex trafficking and exploitation and the dangers they pose to our community, region, and world.

More information on these forums is available on my website at Hultgren.house.gov.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois

Randy in the News

[Crystal Lake woman fights for cancer research in Washington](#) (Northwest Herald)

[Hultgren Encourages Students to Pursue Manufacturing, STEM Skills and Careers](#) (Illinois Review)

[Hultgren Presses FAA Administrator on New Hiring Procedure Bias](#) (McHenry County Blog)

[Kirk and IL GOP Congressmen Call on Obama to Investigate Quinn's Use of Federal Funds](#) (Illinois Review)

[More than three dozen US lawmakers attend Modi's Madison Square event](#) (Zee News)

[Republican Alternatives to Obamacare](#) (The Daily Free Press)

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