

March Monthly Report:

Hello Everyone, I'm Damon Ritzko, and this is my Monthly Report for March.

March was a very exciting month for the ALC. Since February 29th, the ALC has gone on 4 Field Trips within the span of 9 days. We may not have sports, but the ALC is infamous for our field trips :)

Northwood Technical College:

On Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, The ALC went on an all day field trip to 3 separate places throughout the day.

The first place we went to was Northwood Technical College in Superior, Wisconsin for a College tour, where we went all over the building looking and discussing the multitude of careers that are able to be achieved at NTC.

Machine Tool Class:

The Machine Tool Class is about working with coding, to help manufacture parts. With the Automatic machines - as seen on the top middle and right pictures - students learn coding, and put that coding to use by making actual parts for all types of things, such as parts to make the machines that were making the parts in the first place, car parts, and even just screws to put your bed frame together. The list goes on.

Students that attend this class will gain the basic skills necessary to safely operate machine tool equipment at the beginning and intermediate levels. Through group lectures and demonstrations, they

will learn safety, set ups, proper feeds, and speeds of machine tool equipment. An advanced lab opportunity is available for students demonstrating competency in safe operation of machines. The beginning level class is Machine Tool Operation 1 - Which is a 4 year class - and the intermediate level class is Machine Tool Operation 2 - Which is a 2 year class. There are many other options that fall under the machinery umbrella, but this specific one was what we covered during our tour of the college.

Indoor College Campus:

During our tour, we were brought all around the building and saw all of the beautiful architecture and how homey and inviting the building and the surrounding felt. The inside of the building really did feel like a warm, cozy place to study, and some of the structures were an absolute masterpiece.

Nursing Class:

First off, yes, those are actual manikins that students use in place of actual people... Ok, now that's out of the way-

The nursing course has many, many options, not just working with people directly. Anyone can become a nurse, and there are courses that span anywhere from 1 year to 6 years, the options are limitless. Like working in a nursing home, to being a pharmacist, a Veterinarian, someone who works alongside hospice, to just your regular store bought nurse.

Cosmetology Class:

For those of you out of the loop, Cosmetology isn't the study of comets - shocker - it's the study of hair and nail care. Have you ever gone out

to get a haircut? Or gone to get your nails done? Those are cosmetologists. There are courses that range from 1/2 a year to 5 years, depending on how devoted you are to the career.

Anna Kalin and Kate Flug:

Anna Kalin (left) and Kate Flug (right) were our tour guides for this trip, and were incredibly helpful with answering questions, and were incredibly kind to all of us during our duration at Northwood. I wanted to give them both a shoutout because they both did an incredible job showing us around, and they truly were the backbone to this whole trip. After we ate lunch there, we said our goodbyes and went to our next destination of the day.

World Of Wheels:

World of Wheels is a place in Superior that is a roller skate/rollerblade rink. We were there for about an hour, and everyone was having lots of fun and just enjoying themselves. I myself brought my own roller blades, and the whole experience was enjoyable as a whole.

Duluth Career Fair:

The last place we visited was a career fair that was being held a few blocks away from our school building. These careers focused on some trade careers (such as construction and electrical companies), but the majority of the careers that were being promoted were careers that you'd most likely have to go to college for and careers that you'd have for the next 10+ years. There was about 1 job there that could be considered a summer job (it was at a grocery store I believe), but other than that there weren't many short time jobs that could get you by for the meantime, but I'm sure that they got some employees, but I personally thought it was a bit of a waste. After that, it was about 3:30 pm, and that's how our day wrapped up.

Trades Career Fair:

On Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, the entirety of the ALC went to the DECC in Canal Park to go to this Career Fair completely focused on the trades. There was Heavy Equipment Operation, Electricians, Brick layers, Architects, you name it, it was there.

What the Career Fair was about:

The Career Fair was about bringing people to the attention of these many many careers that are out there. 80% of Trade Careers don't need anything higher than a highschool diploma to get the job. the other 20% do require some type of higher education, but those jobs have programs so you can get paid to learn how to do the job.

~More about the Career Fair~

The actual careers that I could get on camera were: Plumbers, Pipelifters, and Steamfitters, Limited Energy, Electrical, Iron Workers, and Metal Sheet Workers. These careers - at least the majority of them - are hard, manual labor jobs that obviously not many people are going to want to go into. That's part of the reason why they pay so well. Jobs like these easily can accumulate up to and over 6 figures a year - some jobs it's actually closer to 7 even.

We spent about an hour to an hour and a half there, before we went back to resume our regular school day.

2024 Youth Summit:

On Wednesday, March 13th, 2024, Select students from East, Denfeld, and the ALC were invited to take part in the 2024 Youth Summit in St. Paul Minnesota, near the capitol building. The Youth Summit is where

LGBTQ+ Youth can gather together and share their experiences, meet potential new friends, and join the community together in one place. This year, over 400+ Students from schools across the state gathered together. It was a little chaotic, I'm not going to lie, but it was 100% worth only getting 3 hours of sleep to be there.

Schedule of Events:

So, as you can see that the event technically started at 8 AM, we - selected East, Denfeld, and ALC students - actually departed from Duluth a little after 8, and didn't get there until just before the Affinity Spaces block was about to begin (sometime between 10:20-10:35 AM) due to the bus company screwing up the order for the bus we were supposed to take down there (They thought that the staff had scheduled it for Thursday the 14th, instead of Wednesday the 13th). We were supposed to leave at 6:30 AM, but had a hour and a half late start to the day :,)

When we got there though, the first Workshop Block had just ended, and we departed to the Affinity Spaces.

Affinity Spaces:

I am aware that the text is small, so I'll read what the text says, starting from the top left in the box:

“We are excited to Introduce Affinity Spaces this year! These sessions will run between Workshop Block 1 and Lunch from 10:35 AM to 11:15 AM. Affinity Spaces are a place for those with specific identities to share experiences, stories, and support.”

“Affinity Spaces are not open to those that do not identify with their titles. If you do not hold any of the identities listed, you are always welcome in the Ally and/or Questioning Space!”

Moving over to the right, these are the Titles of the different Affinity Spaces provided:

- Experiences of Rural Queer Youth
 - Sharing Ace and Aro Stories
 - Queer Young People of Faith Affinity Space
 - Queer, Bisexual, & Middle Sexualities
 - Living in Larger Bodies
 - Latine Affinity Space / El Espacio de Afinidad Latine
 - Hmong & Southeast Asian LGBTQ+ Youth
 - Trans/Gender Expansive Affinity Space
 - The Black LGBTQ+ Affinity Space
 - Disability and Neurodivergence Affinity Space
- And finally:
- Ally and/or Questioning Affinity Space

I chose the Queer, Bisexual, & Middle Sexualities Affinity Space to go to, and this is the description of what the Space was about:

“The Queer, Bisexual, and Middle Sexualities Affinity Space is open to all participants who identify as pansexual, bisexual, queer, omnisexual, polysexual, or multisexual of any kind. This will be a chance to share our community’s pride, joys, and successes, while also holding space to commiserate over the erasure, discrimination, and unique challenges we face.”

The Presenter for this Affinity Space is Anna Ehl, who goes by She/They Pronouns, and is a Minneapolis - St. Paul Parent, and OutFront Minnesota Volunteer.

Workshop Block 2:

Lunch ran from 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM, and from 12:15 PM to 1:05 pm
Was the Workshop Block 2. I don't have much information about what
the workshop Blocks were totally about, but here are the Events that
were taking place during this time:

- Queer Dungeons and Dragons (D&D)
 - Tell Your Story
 - Queer Sex Ed
 - Gender Transition for Teens Q&A
 - Therapeutic Art Making & Journaling
 - Healthy LGBTQIA+ Relationships
 - Trans and Intersex Solidarity 101
 - Let's Talk About Gender Identity
 - Yes and Connection: Improv Exercises To Get To Know Each Other
- And lastly:
- LGBTQ+ Inclusive Schools: Advocacy and Self Care

I personally went to the Healthy LGBTQIA+ Relationships, mainly because I have a girlfriend, who is a Transwoman (Who sadly couldn't attend the Youth Summit) , and even though we have a very strong bond, I wanted to know if there was anything else that we could do to make our bond stronger. Here's the description for this Workshop:

“We all deserve healthy relationships - whether they're romantic or platonic! Join myHealth educators for this activity-filled relationships workshop to reflect on what is important to us in healthy queer relationships. Learn more about how unhealthy relationships can impact the queer community, and practice healthy communication and boundary-setting skills!”

The Presenter for this workshop is Nichole Lewandowski, who goes by Any/All pronouns, and is a myHealth for Teens and Young Adults Educator.

SYM1:

At 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM, we were given a closing performance by a Local music artist: SYM1. SYM1 is a local artist who is based in Minnesota, and calls the state a home. During this performance, we listened to 6 of her songs, played live with backup dancers, and even a small smoke machine. It truly was an amazing way to end the day, and she is one of my new favorite artists. My personal Favorite song from her is Meet Me Online (MMO) and would 100% recommend listening to that song. Their Instagram, TikTok, and their website are their if you ever want to check them out on one of their many platforms. Now, here is the description of her and her music:

“Unsubscribed from reality as we know it, SYM1 is a vocalist, producer, and performer using eurodance, hyperpop, and alternative aesthetics to inspire a renaissance of early 2000’s rave culture.”

Pie Day:

On Thursday, March 14, 2024, This day is know as “Pi day”, because it’s 3-14... 3.14... Haha, funny math joke. Due to this day, My math teacher - Mrs. Jane Juten - bought 20 pies, some being pumpkin, cherry, blueberry, and apple. These pies were free for students all day long, to take as much as they’d like.

I personally took 2 slices of Pumpkin Pie and that was enough for me-

Bowling:

To round off the day, from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM the students and staff were welcome to a free hour of bowling, pizza, and fun. Above are some pictures I took while we were there, and it's clear that even though not everyone was good at it, everyone was indeed having fun.

Now how did I do?... I got 15 gutter balls... yeah, I had about 28 points at the end... Fun times :,)

Conclusion:

Thank you for sitting through this VERY long presentation- I'll be answering any questions you may have after the meeting is officially Adjourned.