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PRESS RELEASE

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Local Science Students Get Hands On Experience at Valent BioSciences Corp.

Osage and St. Ansgar High School Science students were privileged with the opportunity to see first-hand the Valent BioSciences Corporation (VBC) process which utilizes chemistry and science to produce environmentally safe products that help enhance public health, forestry and agriculture products which the students likely consume on a daily basis.

The students spent the morning with a quick intro on the numerous products produced at VBC, how they work, and why they are beneficial. They then were able to see the overall manufacturing and fermentation process VBC utilizes to produce their products, as well as gain hands-on experience in three different lab stations. In the lab stations students saw how VBC utilizes basic physical chemistry and testing techniques, and in the insectary they were able to see all life stages of reared insects, were able to view hatching caterpillar larvae under a dissecting microscope, see how different species of mosquitoes lay eggs, and learned how to distinguish healthy vs. unhealthy insects under compound microscopes. Many of the students expressed their interest in pursuing degrees in the science field after high school and were fascinated by the multitude of careers represented at Valent. "I thought that the tour was very interesting. I had no idea what Valent did before we went and toured the facility, and it was interesting to see how a company that provides products to all around the world is able to operate out of a small town..." Lauren Nasstrom, Osage Advanced Biology student stated, "It was also interesting to see what paths people can take with different degrees coming out of college...This whole experience really helped me further my knowledge of what we are learning in class. It was interesting to see how these different scientific procedures we learn about in our textbook and do in lab are used in real life."

"We are so fortunate to live in Mitchell County and have access to these world renowned businesses." said Devin Schwiesow, St. Ansgar High School Chemistry Teacher. "What a great way to apply concepts we have been learning about all year to the real world," Mitchell County is proud to have a diverse network of manufacturing facilities who work closely with our three school districts and have a positive

impact on our communities while providing great employment opportunities. “As we look to the future and growth in our business and industry it will be important that our young people understand the outstanding employment opportunities we have right here in Mitchell County,” Mitchell County Economic Development Director, Brenda Dryer. Interaction with our businesses and industries, like Valent BioSciences, is one of the best ways to expose our youth to the great opportunities available right here at home.

Photos Below



St. Ansgar Chemistry & Advanced Integrated Science Students with VBC Staff.



Osage Advanced Biology Students and Staff.



Students were able to participate in various chemistry testing and entomology practices at different lab stations.

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