

Career website draws support in area

By Hillary Gavan hgavan@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, May 31, 2014 10:00 am

A web-based career preparation and readiness platform in Rock County, powered by Career Cruising, shows there are already 73 company profiles listed online, 90 career coaches available and 13,000 students who have used the new resource.

The online one-stop shop allows students, primarily in the middle school through college years, to scout out potential careers and companies of interest in Rock County as well as mentors.

The Rock County Development Agency's Economic Development Manager James Otterstein said student activity levels are climbing each month with the most participation from Beloit Turner, Parkview, Edgerton and Clinton high schools with growing participating from Edison, Franklin, Marshall, McNeel and Milton schools.

Approximately 2,400 of the student portfolios contain at least two career choices and nearly 630 students have mapped out the location of their preferred higher education target, Otterstein said.

School District of Beloit Career and Technical Education Director Ryan Rewey said counselors and career teachers were trained at the beginning of the school year in Beloit, and students have begun taking assessments and completing career portfolios in career classes at Aldrich and McNeel middle schools. And many CTE students have been introduced to Career Cruising at the high school.

"This is a work in progress that will take a few school years to be fully implemented. So far this school year from Sept. 1 until now we have had 11,544 student logins. This will continue to change as we embrace the software throughout the district," Rewey said.

With summer break rapidly approaching, Otterstein encourages students, parents and educators to use the resource.

For more information people can visit www.inspirerockcounty.org.