



# JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Rep. Jessie Rodriguez

October 6, 2017

(608) 266-0610

## **Rep. Rodriguez Celebrates National Manufacturing Day with Local Students at PPG**

**OAK CREEK** – On Friday morning, Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek), joined Oak Creek High School students for a tour at PPG to share with students the opportunities available through careers in manufacturing.

“Manufacturing has a rich history throughout Wisconsin but especially in our region and in Oak Creek,” said Rodriguez. “PPG is an important piece of the manufacturing ecosystem in our community and they do a great job reaching out to local youth and demonstrating the exciting opportunities that are available in skilled manufacturing.”

Students participating in the tour were broken up into small groups visiting different parts of the plant to learn about a variety of intricacies in manufacturing and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Jobs in skilled manufacturing are increasing throughout the region with local manufacturers expanding and tech-giant Foxconn planning to locate south of Oak Creek. PPG recently completed a \$3 million expansion adding more capacity and jobs to the Oak Creek facility.

“With companies like PPG that recently expanded and Foxconn coming to Wisconsin, it’s incredibly important that students are prepared for jobs of the future. That’s why my colleagues and I approved a budget that includes more funding for programs that prepare students for high quality jobs like those offered through PPG and other manufacturers,” said Rodriguez.

In addition to introducing students to manufacturing, the PPG Foundation, the company’s outreach arm, is providing a \$10,000 grant to Discovery World to provide more resources for STEM education. Additionally, PPG provides a number of scholarships and internships to students interested in pursuing a STEM career.

“PPG and local manufacturers in my community are providing students with a unique opportunity to see first-hand the exciting behind-the-scenes work that goes into all the products that we use in our everyday lives. Events like Manufacturing Day get kids interested in manufacturing and STEM careers that lead to a prosperous future.”

PPG manufactures paints and coatings for a variety of products including automobiles. The company is headquartered in Pittsburgh with locations in 75 countries. The Oak Creek location has 550 employees.

###