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Gov. Kasich Promotes Job Readiness Program to Teens

COLUMBUS -- Ohio Governor John Kasich is making a push to teach high school students how to get a job after they graduate.

Governor Kasich visited with juniors from Mifflin High School Thursday, discussing the "Road to Readiness" program that gives students real-world access to leading businesses and professionals to gain insight into future careers.

"When people go to school, they ought to be taking something that prepares them for a job, " Governor Kasich said. "I absolutely believe that over the course of these couple days, some of these lives will be changed."

The 20 student group is one of 21 groups of Columbus Public Schools students going to participating employers like Huntington Bank, AEP, Ohio State University, Scotts Miracle Gro, Limited Brands, and Cardinal Health. Huntington CEO Steve Steinour talked with Columbus Public School students about possible job choices and took them on a tour that included technology and creative services for the bank.

Steinour said making the connection between education and employment is essential to the Ohio economy.

"We have to have workers ready. If we do that, with the other advantages we have, and we have many, we will be back on a growth curve," Steinour said.

Student Bertha Jaramillo was one of those asking questions of employers and taking in the atmosphere in the work place. "It opened me up to opportunities," said Jaramillo, a junior who will soon be making post-high school choices. "I need to know what jobs are out there and what is required to get them."

Columbus Partnership President and CEO Alex Fischer said it is important to make sure that education in Ohio is not just a K-12 proposition, but K through J -- as in job.

The Road to Readiness program is being piloted in Columbus, but officials hope to see it brought to other Ohio communities. "We have to rescue our youth from frustration and inability to find work. It takes a community to impact their future," Governor Kasich said.

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