Seven school districts brought over 250 students to tour businesses in the Dawson County area on Nov. 17.

The school districts included Gothenburg, Cozad, Lexington, Elwood, Overton, Eustis-Farnam and Sumner-Eddyville-Miller.

The business and industry tour is coordinated by Dawson Area Development's ABLE program to create awareness of careers in central Nebraska.

Students selected a career path they were interested in and then were divided in groups to visit three or four businesses in that field. The tours included agriculture and natural resources, business marketing and management, automotive technology, government, engineering and robotics, technology, construction, entrepreneurship and health science.

When asked, what was the most important thing learned on the tours, Jay Griffis of Cozad said, "There are some good opportunities here."

Stephanie Guevara from Lexington High School said it opened her eyes concerning what classwork is needed. "It helped me learn many new things like you need a lot of math and science in the medical businesses," she said

Businesses that participated in the tours included: Natural Escapes, Eustis Body Shop, Designer Craft Woodworking, REAP, Cornhusker Energy, Dawson Public Power District, All Points Cooperative, Katie Arndt Photography, Plum Creek Motors, Fairbanks International, Landmark Implement, Pony Express Chevrolet, Baldwin Filters, Orthman Manufacturing, Wal-Mart, KRVN, Monsanto Learning Center, First State Bank, Gothenburg State Bank, Paulsen Inc., J.A. Dannehl Construction, Tri-County Hospital, Gothenburg Memorial Hospital,

Meadowlark Pointe, Colorado Biolabs, Lutheran Family Services, Dawson County Courthouse and the City of Lexington.

Several community colleges were on hand to show programs related to the career fields. Representatives from Northeast Community College, Central Community College and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture also gave presentations to students on the tours.

Nebraska Career Connections was on hand to give students an overview of online resources to aid in career planning.

ABLE, which stands for Advocating for Business Labor Education, is a partnership between local businesses and the seven area schools to encourage our youth to return to this area after completing their education.