

Ingalls Shipbuilding Shipbuilder Discovery Day

Video Transcript

Leah Biggs, Recruitment Manager, Ingalls Shipbuilding: “Ingalls is an 80-year-old company, so we think about recruiting in terms of the longevity of a career. So we are hoping to target eighth-graders to help them make a decision about choosing a technical education field. So we want them to get excited about the field of shipbuilding and help them to decide on their educational choices.”

Dr. Tom Wallace, CTE Director, Mississippi Department of Education: “Career and technical education—one thing I think we have to do a better job of is changing the perception, and I think days like today, with this tour, go a long way in doing that and provide an opportunity for our students to see that there are opportunities and careers out there that do not require necessarily a four-year degree.”

Amy Rowell, Administration Generalist, Ingalls Shipbuilding: “We hope that those students will take back what they’ve seen today and they can kind of build themselves a path. And if they would like to have a job here, it can kind of help build that. They can know what classes that they need to take to accomplish that. We want everyone to be proud to be Ingalls shipbuilders. We want everyone in the community to be proud of Ingalls. We want to showcase what we have. We want to open up career opportunities for individuals in this area. We’re building America’s ships. We’re building freedom for this nation, and that’s important to all of us.”

Fred Howell, Talent Acquisition Dept. Manager, Ingalls Shipbuilding: “As an industry partner in the state’s CTE program, they benefit because we’re able to give them ideas about the best way to meet the needs of the entire state. We spend a lot of time in meetings with other employers. Ironically, there are a lot of other employers that are looking for the same skill sets that we are. So as we began to build these partnerships—both with other employers and with the CTE program—we do a much better job for the state getting people into the right occupation so they can have a high-skill, high-wage position.”

Dr. Wallace: “I’ve worked with Ingalls—as I mentioned, I’m a former CTE director in the school districts—I’ve worked with Ingalls throughout my career, and I’ve really seen Ingalls step up their game in the last couple years ... to really be involved more and participate more in activities at the local school district level to recruit potential workforce employees into these training centers to help enhance what we’re doing at the secondary level with workforce development. It’s tremendous the impact that Ingalls is having on our secondary career tech ed programs.”