

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 13, 2014

**CONTACT:**  
Paris Ervin 217.782.5025  
Jae Miller 312.814.4693

## **IDOT Joins Forces with Chicagoland Schools, Introduces High School Students to Careers in Transportation**

*Career Day Welcomes Hundreds of Chicago Area Students, Provides Fun, Educational Opportunity*

CHICAGO - The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) today hosted hundreds of high school students for the agency's seventh Career Day event at the Chicago Laborers' Facility. The event is a workforce development tool that introduces students, through hands-on activities and heavy equipment demonstrations, to careers in the transportation industry.

"Career Day is an exciting opportunity for IDOT employees, schools and industry partners to inform, inspire and expose high school students to the many rewarding careers in transportation," Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider said. "We want students to know that through education and hard work, they may someday be able to help us build strong roads and bridges, improve our railways and fly our planes."

Approximately 300 high school students from 17 different schools were in attendance for today's event. Students will be exposed to more than 45 exhibits, which includes hands-on activities and several pieces of heavy equipment on display used to build and maintain Illinois' multimodal transportation system.

The careers highlighted include civil engineering, engineering technology, safety engineering, surveying and construction trades. In addition to hearing about specific career opportunities, students also were provided with information about construction careers and IDOT safety campaigns. Career Day attendees also received a hard hat and safety glasses, as well as other items, provided by businesses in the transportation field.

IDOT started Career Day in 2007 in Springfield. The next Career Day event will be April 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at America's Central Port, 1635 W. First St., in Granite City. IDOT partners with representatives of the transportation industry, educational institutions and community-based organizations to host this event. For more information about Career Day, please visit <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/employment-opportunities/student-opportunities/index#HighSchool>.