

A COMMUNITY UNITED



EMPOWERING STUDENTS & FAMILIES

At West40, we are all about the kids in our community. Backpack Giveback is one of the many programs we have that set them up for success. Many of the families in our districts can't afford school supplies, so we created a partnership with Triton and Morton Colleges to ensure our kids have what they need to start the school year feeling proud and prepared.



MAKING AMAZING HAPPEN

West40 was blessed to partner with quite a few groups who gave their time, talent and financial support to Backpack Giveback. Check out our website to see some of our generous donors. Additionally, a huge shout out to FLOOD BROTHERS for their \$10,000 donation! West40 is committed to giving every single student the opportunity to become who they are meant to be. Working together, we give them that chance.

The ripple effect of Backpack Giveback has been seen throughout our community, as far north as River Grove at Triton College and as far east as Cicero at Morton College! At West40, we will meet you where you are. We will be what you need. We will walk further with you. West40 will stand STRONG with you.





"BACKPACK GIVEBACK IS GREAT MOTIVATION FOR EVERYONE!"

- Family Member Recipient at Backpack Giveback

MESSAGE FROM MARK

Welcome to the new school year! With the launching of the FY20 year, there is much to celebrate and some serious concerns to address. I am excited to share that the West40 region has finished nearly a half a billion dollars of construction work, resulting in enhanced 21st Century Teaching and Learning environments. Additionally, we see the positive effects of the new Evidence Based Funding mechanisms across the state. Although it will take a long time, our districts are moving toward closing the gap between existing funding and "adequate funding."

While there is much to celebrate, there are also challenges, the greatest of which seems to be the national shortage of teachers. It is at crisis levels! As a Regional Office of Education, West40 is working hard to address this.

Our Advocacy Programs are up and running. We have opened two additional programs this year allowing us to serve up to 1,500 students who have been identified as "At-Risk."



We are very proud of our programs and are always looking for ways to improve and expand into additional schools. We rejoice in the accomplishments of our students that overcome challenges and take bold steps into successful futures.

Here's to a wonderful 2019-2020 school year. As always, please let us know if there are ways we can serve you!