



40 STORIES

OPENING DOORS



THINK DIFFERENT. TRY DIFFERENT.

West40 is all about transforming what schools look like and that is exactly what Leyden High School in our district is doing. "Leadership is about creating a culture where it's okay to think different, try different," said Leyden High School Superintendent Dr. Nick Polyak. Their innovative co.lab, an opt-in program for freshman, is an interdisciplinary and collaborative space that fosters inquiry, leadership, communication and reflection. To learn about this program and more, go to leyden212.org.

In another example of how Leyden High School is doing things differently and exemplifying the empowerment they teach students, this past December they hosted a Naturalization Ceremony where 150 residents became U.S. Citizens, 35 of them within the Leyden community. Read about it in the *Chicago Tribune* article "Newcomers from 34 nations become Americans at naturalization ceremony."





IDENTIFYING PASSIONS. CREATING PATHWAYS.



Dr. Jennifer Kelsall, Superintendent of Ridgewood Community High School, talks about working with students to help them realize career opportunities beyond what they thought possible. Hear this inspiring story about transforming lives on our West40 podcast. Just scan the QR Code with your phone.



"OUR JOB IS TO HELP THEM ALL
BE ABLE TO SEE THE DOORS
AND POSSIBILITIES."

THE WIZARD OF WOZ

On January 29, West40 invited schools and community partners to participate in a hands-on exploration of a STEM curriculum developed by Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak and his team at Woz ED. People came to experiment and play with drones, mobile development and digital animation!

Woz ED is a research-based K-12 curriculum created to bring STEM into the classroom and help students explore opportunities in the tech echo system, including Coding, Engineering Design Process, Drones, Cybersecurity, Mobile Development, Data Science, Animation, and Artificial Intelligence Career Pathways.

We love hearing stories of how lives have been changed by what we do here at West40. Want to share your story? Send it our way at amooney@west40.org.

MESSAGE FROM MARK

It's exciting and energizing to see how things are shifting in K-12 education. Even though some attributes of the Illinois education system have been labeled as non-negotiable, e-learning days and competency-based programming are calling these "non-negotiables" into question.

As we enter into 2020, it is refreshing to be part of conversations that seek to revise how we do school in Illinois! Recently, the ISBE board approved a budget with \$510M of new funding. If this budget makes it through the legislature and across the Governor's desk, it will be time to discuss radical, creative, research-based innovations to enhance student learning and quality of life.

West40 is poised and ready to partner with our districts and other entities around the state to change how schools prepare the next generation.
Please join our journey!

