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**BELLEVILLE WEST HIGH SCHOOL FACILITY RECOGNIZED AS A  
POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION**

**Project Labor Agreement and Illinois FIRST Funds Helped Bring the Project to Reality**

**EDWARDSVILLE, ILL., March 3, 2004 . . .** The Labor-Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois recently recognized the new Belleville West High School facility as a positive example of labor and management cooperation. The Committee will be touring a variety of facilities throughout Southwestern Illinois this year as a way to highlight facilities that were built under a project labor agreement and/or have organized internal labor-management committees to help foster relationships between labor leaders and management.

The Belleville West High School, located south of Illinois Route 15 on Frank Scott Parkway in Belleville, was built under a project labor agreement (PLA). A PLA is a type of hiring agreement designed to increase productivity and keep complex projects on schedule. Construction requires management of several factors, any one of which can cause project delays and cost overruns. PLAs also help in labor relations by establishing wages, uniform work schedules and rules for dispute resolution. This ensures project managers a conflict-free atmosphere and provides a steady supply of workers - union and non-union alike.

“Building a project under a PLA agreement helps tighten the cost structure, eliminates work stoppages and provides oversight in keeping the project on schedule,” said David Foree, executive secretary-treasurer, Southwestern Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council. “The Belleville West High School facility is a perfect example of how labor and management cooperation can help bring such a wonderful asset to the community.”

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Belleville West PLA  
First and Final Add

Completed in 2003 the \$54 million school project received \$25 million in Illinois FIRST funding. The balance was funded through a referendum passed in support of building the new facility. Now the more than 2,100 students that attend the state-of-the-art facility, have access to first-class resources, cutting edge technology and career building opportunities that may not have been available had the funding and PLA not been in place. The students can get hands-on knowledge of careers ranging from metal working and robotics to graphic design and 3D modeling. And, the added space in the new facility allows the students to get a wider range of hands-on classes, has helped in upgrading the physical education facilities as well as art and theater studies.

“Anytime you have a big project like this, you’ll have some problems. Because of the PLA, work stoppages weren’t one of them, they weren’t even on the radar screen. The board, administration, and unions always try to work cooperatively in District 201. This extended to the construction project, where a huge variety of factors had to be cooperatively approached for school to open on time this year.” said Doug Dahm, assistant superintendent, Belleville Township High School District 201.

“The Labor-Management Committee is committed to spotlighting facilities and companies throughout Southwestern Illinois that exemplify positive labor-management relations,” said Marv Finkelstein, executive director of the Labor-Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois. “District 201, and everyone involved in the construction of the new high school have proven how good things can happen when labor and management work together.”

The Labor-Management Committee was formed in 1983 by the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and exists to serve employers and unions in Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois. For more information about the Labor-Management Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois, please call (618) 650-2681 or visit the Labor-Management Committee Web site at [www.ezl.com/lmc](http://www.ezl.com/lmc)

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