In my district, I'm working with high schools and manufacturers on recruiting students to go into STEM fields. We're working on connecting students with manufacturers who are looking for employees.

I want to recognize the efforts of Medusa Consulting, Illinois Worknet and Manufacturing Careers, Incorporated for their leadership in bringing a manufacturing jobs fair to the District 214 Field House in Arlington Heights this upcoming December 5.

I want to have my colleagues to support STEM education and to work with their local businesses on hosting these important jobs fairs and manufacturing workshops. This is absolutely critical if we want to get America back to work.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of Weld County, Colorado. Weld County takes its name from Lewis Ledyard Weld. Weld was appointed by President Lincoln as Colorado's first territorial secretary.

On November 1, 1861, the Colorado Territory's General Assembly officially organized Weld County. This November marks the 150-year anniversary.

As with most Western settlements during the 1860s, Weld County had an extremely sparse population. Today it's got over 250,000 people. From a humble start as an area based predominantly on coal mining, Weld County is distinguished by its thriving business sector and strong agricultural economy.

In fact, Weld County is the eighth-leading agricultural county in the entire United States and the only county outside of California ranked in the top 10.

From small businesses, great land for farming, Weld County is also home to the University of Northern Colorado and the Pawnee National Grasslands. It's home to over 19 different towns, each one with a unique identity that makes this area of Colorado distinctive. And it's home to thriving energy interests and some of the Nation's leading water pioneers.

One of my favorite events every year is the Fourth of July Greeley Stampede Parade. It reminds me of what it means to call Colorado home.

Weld County embodies everything that is great about heading West, and I am proud to recognize their 150th anniversary.