



Launch Your Future Today

PRESS RELEASE
November 21st, 2022

Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) Career Pathways is a rural career and technical education pathway initiative in the 18-county service region of southwest and west central Minnesota, launched in 2018 with a legislative grant secured by the Southwest West Central (SWWC) Service Cooperative and its partners. Since then, LYFT Pathways continues to be supported through a state-wide Rural Career and Technical Education (CTE) Consortium Grant, which was passed by the Minnesota Legislature.

Approximately 60 projects were funded between 2018-2022. Nearly 14,000 students in southwest and west central Minnesota were impacted by these projects, and 40 of the projects were new CTE courses. To read more about those projects, visit the LYFT Pathways website at www.lyftpathways.org.

On Monday, August 29th, 2022 the LYFT Pathways Advisory Committee announced a new round of funding for innovative CTE projects in southwest and west central Minnesota. The goal of LYFT Pathways funds is for every student in the region, grades 7-12 to gain marketable skills leading to further education and careers that match our region's labor market needs. The CTE project criteria include 1) support and engage students to gain greater exposure to careers and/or build work skills through innovative hands-on learning, 2) include the collaboration of at least one school and one or more businesses or industry-related partners, and 3) align to local/regional career opportunities.

The maximum amount of funding that could be requested was \$15,000. LYFT Career Pathways received a total of 15 proposals, totaling \$197,250. Selection and notification of successful applicants was made on Friday, November 18th, 2022.

We are thrilled to announce the following applicants whose partnerships have been selected and awarded LYFT Pathways Innovation Grant funding.

Wabasso Diesel Mechanics (\$10,239), MATEC/MHS Advanced Welding (\$15,000), Renewed Memories (\$15,000), Montevideo HS Small Engines (\$15,000), STEM Career Exploration-Hydroponics and FCS (\$15,000), Intro to Law Enforcement (\$15,000), PIC Youth Career Connector- Central (\$14,375), PIC Youth Career Connector- North (\$14,375), PIC Youth Career Connector- South (\$14,375), Young Professionals and Me! (\$1,000), CMJTS Career Navigator-East (\$10,000), and CMJTS Career Navigator- West (\$10,000). To read more about each project, visit the LYFT Pathways website at www.lyftpathways.org.

For more information, contact Eriann Faris, CTE Project Coordinator at Southwest West Central (SWWC) Service Cooperative by email at eriann.faris@swwc.org or by phone at 507-537-2271.