Career & Technical Education *for* All

Nursing Skills

Empowering more than 400 students with Minnesota-approved nursing skills through cutting-edge VR technology, bridging education and healthcare innovation.





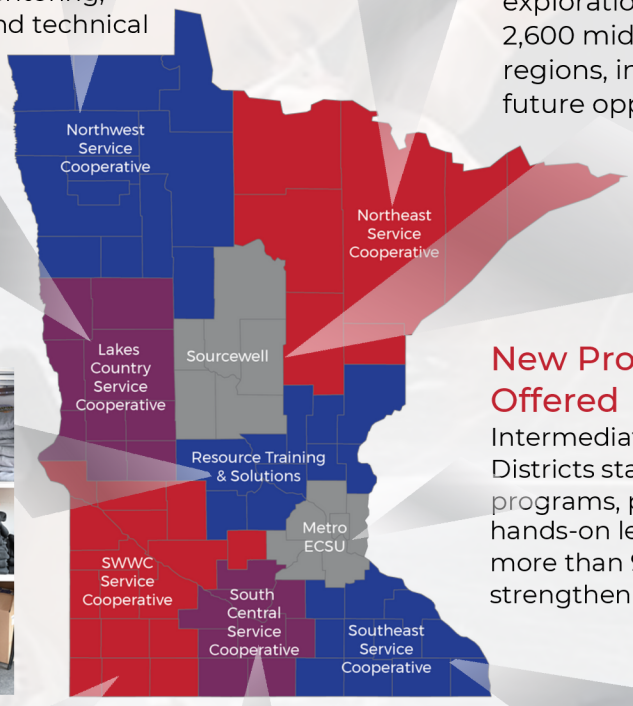
Design, Build, Customize

Students at Rock Ridge High School designed and custom fabricated activity awards stands. Students also utilized laser engraving technology and metal fabrication to complete the project.

CTE Teacher Licensure and Induction

More than 300 teachers statewide received support through licensure, induction, and mentoring, strengthening the future of career and technical education.





Career Exploration

Metier, a game-based career exploration program, is engaging 2,600 middle schoolers across 7 regions, introducing them to diverse future opportunities.



The Storm Front

Students reimagine a trailer into a fully operational retail space, gaining hands-on experience in marketing, architecture, and entrepreneurial design.



New Programs Offered

Intermediate School Districts started 15 CTE programs, providing hands-on learning opportunities to more than 900 students and strengthening career pathways.





Community Connections

Yellow Medicine East and Renville County West students develop digital media, design, and augmented reality skills to map local history and art; students are partnering with Pioneer Public TV and other local industry and community partners to apply what they are learning with real-world projects.



Business-Backed Training

Students and instructors from United South Central school district collaborate with a local manufacturer, gaining hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment and real-world insights.



Middle School Academies

125 middle school students participated in week-long courses exploring Agriculture, Culinary/Hospitality, Health Sciences, IT, and Public Service, sparking early career interests.

Career Connected Learning
MSC Agile • Local • Impact

Career & Technical Education *for* All

Career Connected Learning
MSC Agile • Local • Impact

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives are driving meaningful impact at state, regional, district, and student levels. By combining statewide strategies with localized initiatives, we are delivering dynamic Career and Technical Education (CTE) experiences that pave the way for successful futures for every student.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS • 2022 - CURRENT

CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING (CCL)



- 100,000+students engaged in advanced career-connected learning
- 5,000+ students earned industry credentials or certifications
- 4,000+ students participated in work-based learning
- 50,000+ students received specialized career navigation services

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



- 2,000+ business and community partners engaged in CTE programming
- $3M+ in leveraged funds supported CTE/CCL schools
- Future*Forward*™ expands in MN, increasing users by 151% and becoming available as an app to better connect students with business and post-secondary partners

EDUCATOR and SCHOOL SUPPORT



- 500+ teachers received professional development
- $2M+ invested in innovative CTE programs, equipment, and courses
- 12 schools from 7 regions implement new middle school career exploration system

2024-2025 PLANNED* INVESTMENTS



- $3M+ to districts for CTE/CCL advancements
- $1.8M for career-connected learning services
- $1M for teacher support

*Numbers do not encompass all planned investments

Numbers are conservative estimates based on data acquired as of 12/31/24. *Learn more at www.mnservicecoop.org.*

Regional efforts in Career and Technical Education (CTE) across Minnesota are evolving into cohesive statewide initiatives. Programs such as Metier, Teacher Licensure, Teacher Induction, and FutureForward(TM) are now expanding their reach, enriching opportunities for schools, educators, and students statewide. These initiatives remain a top priority as we move into the next biennium.

Strategic partnerships are also taking root. Our collaboration with Greater Twin Cities United Way enabled us to host the Career-ConneCTEd Conference, fostering statewide sharing of best practices, program insights, and networking. Additionally, our growing partnership with the Minnesota Trucking Association involves working with their staff, board of directors, members, and foundation to build connections with school districts, establish clear career pathways, and inspire the next generation of trucking professionals.

Greater Twin Cities UNITED WAY

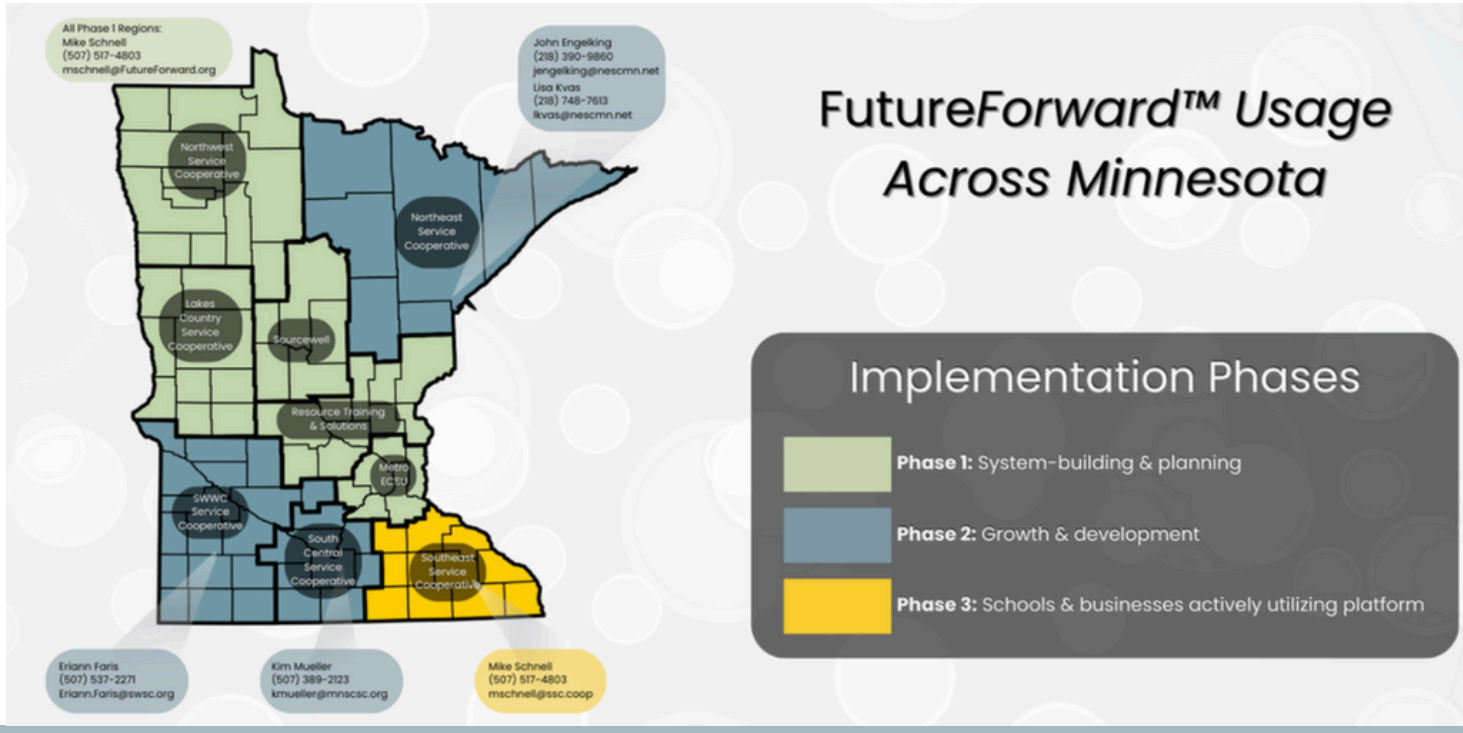
Minnesota Trucking Association MTA

CONTACTS

Anne Kilzer, Executive Director, Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC) | anne@capitolhillassoc.com | 651-261-9692

Cheryl K. Glaeser, MSC CTE Project Facilitator | cheryl@achieveresultstogether.com | 320-583-7526

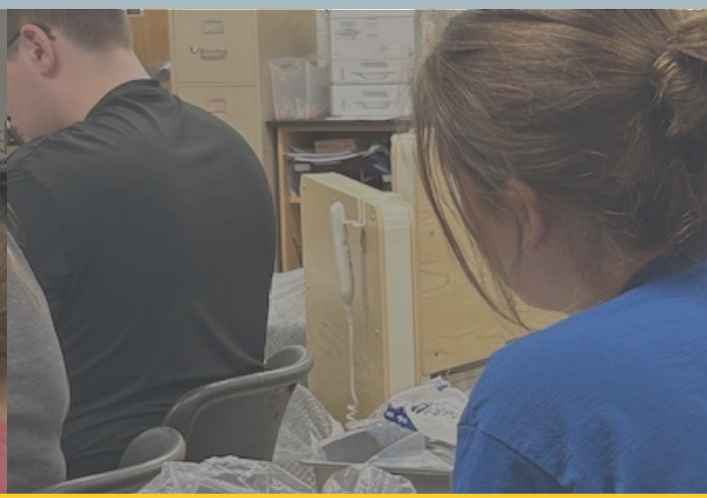
FutureForward



Exponential Growth for Future*Forward*™

Over the last year FutureForward™ has undergone exponential growth. Three additional service cooperatives (NESC, SCSC, and SWSC) are in the growth & development phase, and beginning implementation in schools and with businesses with another just getting started, which means over 50% of Minnesota's Service Cooperatives are already utilizing the tool.





Future*Forward*™ 2024 Specifics

- 11,297 total users - a 151% increase
- 157,175 activities completed on Future*Forward*™ a 103% increase
- 76,928 pages viewed - almost seven per user
- 3,394 mobile users, 31% of total traffic, a 153% increase
- 6,078 contacts to businesses completed by users of Future*Forward*™
- Over 100 Minnesota communities accessed Future*Forward* in 2024
- 94% increase in returning users
- 480 Business Listings

156 NEW Businesses in 2024!

MINNESOTA STEM ECOSYSTEM

Bridging the Gap

Connecting STEM Learning to the Workforce

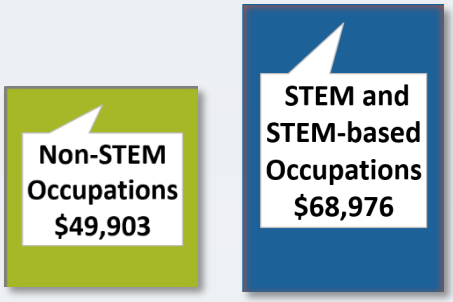
The Jobs Gap

Non-STEM Occupations

STEM and STEM-related Occupations

Over the next 10 years, STEM and STEM-related occupations will grow at a rate of more than 12%![1]

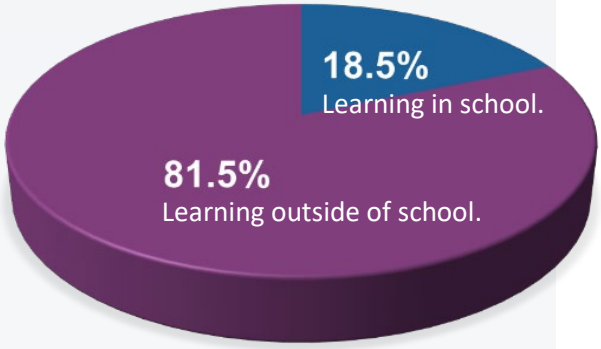
The Wage Gap



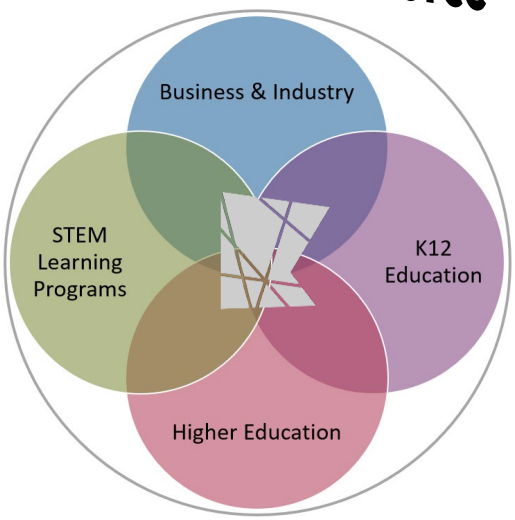
On average STEM and STEM-related occupations pay on average $20,000 a year MORE than non-STEM occupations.[2]

The Learning Gap

More than 80% of learning is done outside of the classroom! AND 81% of students believe experiential, industry-based learning experiences are important![3]



The Minnesota STEM Ecosystem supports STEM learning and workforce development across sectors and systems to coordinate and align statewide STEM learning strategies with Minnesota's workforce needs.



Internships in Greater Minnesota: Through our network of over 50 learning and workforce development partners, we launched STEM internships in key sectors, including Medical, Advanced Manufacturing, and Emerging Technologies.

MN STEM Learning & Workforce Advisory Council: We established a unique cross-sector, cross-system Council bringing together K-12 and Higher Education, out-of-school time (OST) providers, state agencies, and industry partners to develop statewide STEM learning with workforce development strategies.

STEM Career Exploration: Working with our partners, launched hands-on STEM career exploration opportunities that connect students directly with high-demand careers in STEM fields.

Public-Private Partnerships: We are working directly with industry to provide schools and OST programs with tools, and resources to prepare learners for the future workforce.

Connecting OST STEM Programs with Career Pathways: We are collaborating with OST STEM providers to align learning outcomes with career pathways, ensuring students engage in experiential learning relevant to Minnesota's future workforce needs.

Strengthened Regional STEM Networks: We engaged STEM Asset mapping and to develop and support regional STEM networks that connect educators, OST providers, and industry partners.

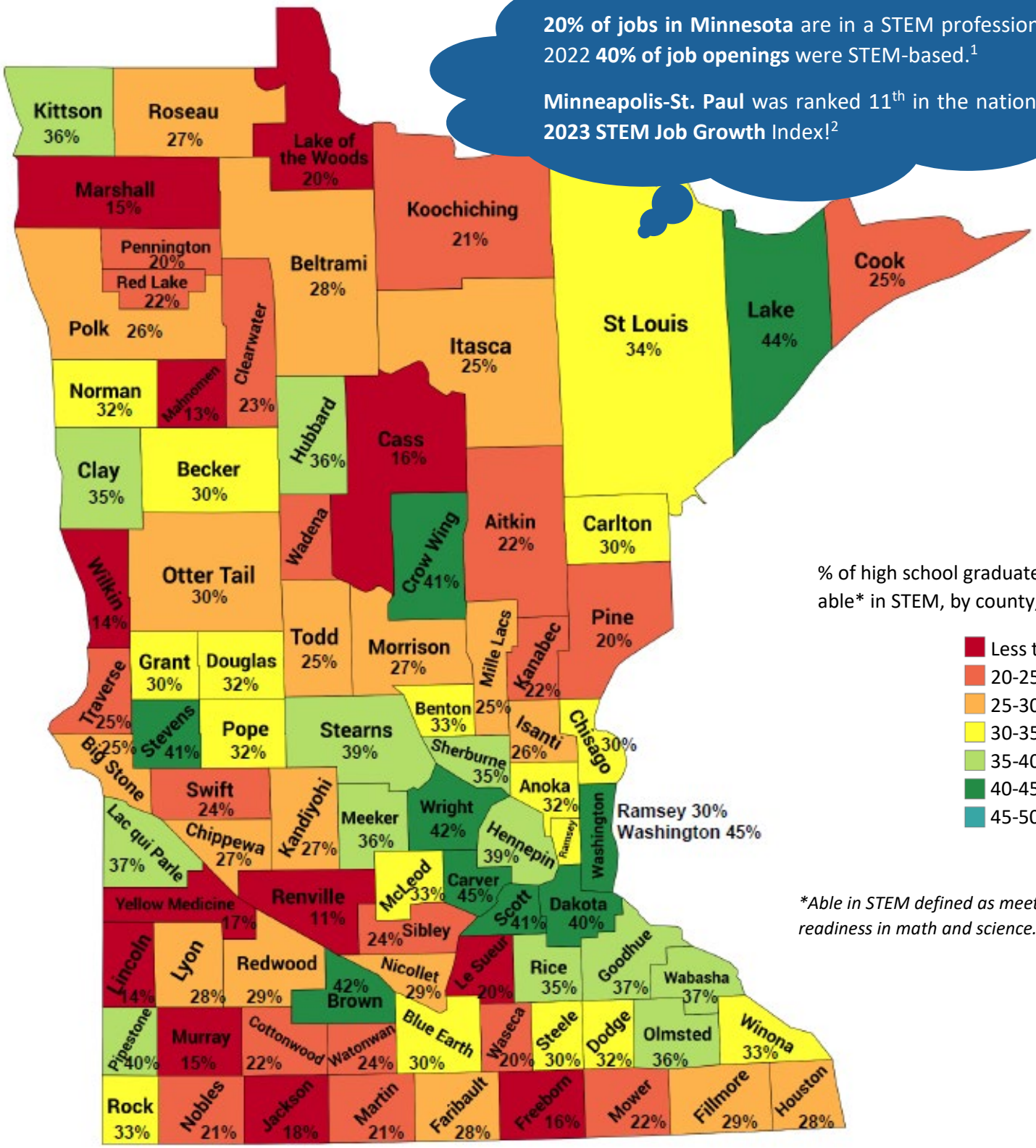
stemmn.org

1 US Bureau of Labor and Statistics
2 The National Science Board- The STEM Labor Force
3 Afterschool Alliance, Minnesota

Is Minnesota STEM Ready?

20% of jobs in Minnesota are in a STEM profession and in 2022 **40% of job openings** were STEM-based.[1]

Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked 11th in the nation on the **2023 STEM Job Growth** Index![2]



% of high school graduates who are able* in STEM, by county, 2020

- Less than 20%
- 20-25%
- 25-30%
- 30-35%
- 35-40%
- 40-45%
- 45-50%

**Able in STEM defined as meeting college readiness in math and science.*

ACT data by county collected by Minnesota Compass; this data ceased to be collected in the same way during or following the COVID19 pandemic. However, in **looking statewide at the MCA [MN Comprehensive Assessment] for 2024, less than 35% of all high school juniors (11th grade) were proficient in grade level math.**

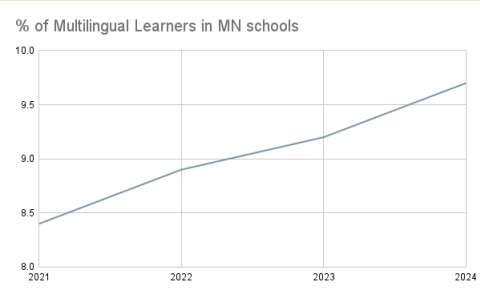
1 Mn Dept of Employment & Economic Development
2 STEMdex, RCLO

Project MOMENTUM

Elevating instruction for Multilingual Learners through professional learning and licensure opportunities for educators

State of multilingual education in MN

Multilingual learners are growing population*



*Minnesota Report Card and MDE English Learners in Minnesota Report 2023

Teachers teaching ESL without the required credentials*

402

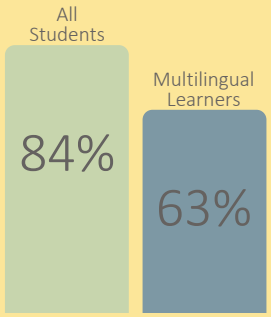
English as a Second Language (ESL) is among the licensure areas with largest number of teachers without the required credentials to teach ESL.

*PELSB Tiered Licensure and Permission Report, 2023-2024 School Year

55% Over half the teachers in MN say their teacher preparation program did not prepare them to work with multilingual learners*

*MNSPIRE TEACHER SURVEY: SUMMARY REPORT June 2022 Prepared for the Professional Educator Licensing Standards Board (PELSB)

Graduation Rate*



*Minnesota Report Card

222

ESL is the second licensure field with the highest Out-of-Field Permissions*

An out-of-field permission (OFP) allows a teacher to teach outside of their licensure field and/or scope (grade level) for one academic school year

*PELSB Tiered Licensure and Permission Report, 2023-2024 School Year

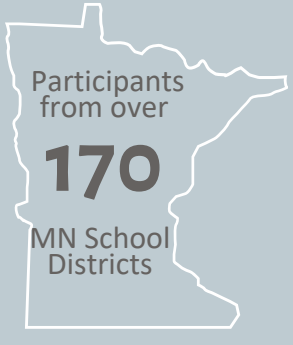
Project MOMENTUM offers:

- ✓ Equitable access to free, high-quality professional learning opportunities for teachers, administrators, and education support professionals.
- ✓ Free, self-paced, asynchronous courses that allow access across the state
- ✓ Our programs include
  - Support for candidates going through the license via portfolio process
  - K-12 ESL Additional Licensure program
  - CEU courses that are aligned with state licensure requirements
  - micro-credential pathways for general education teachers to grow their knowledge and skills in working with multilingual learners

Project MOMENTUM by the numbers

40 candidates enrolled in K-12 ESL Additional Licensure Program

19 candidates receiving support in the license via portfolio process



Over 1,300 educators are enrolled in Project MOMENTUM courses and so far, have completed over 3,000 cumulative hours of professional learning through our courses

Southeast Service Cooperative

Student Programs

2024-2025

Young Authors Young Artists

The Young Authors, Young Artists Conferences welcome students in grades 3-8 from schools across southeast Minnesota. Students participate in active, motivating, idea-generating symposiums of sessions taught by professional authors, illustrators, sculptors, and other artists who've turned their passion into a career. Students are encouraged to explore their unique creativity.
Watch the video to learn more: www.ssc.coop/yayaelementary

Dates:
Grades 6 - 8: October 24, 2024
Grades 3 - 5: May 20-22, 2025

"The students had a wonderful time! It was well organized and a lot of fun."

"She truly enjoyed all the sessions. She couldn't pick a favorite, as they were each so wonderful!"

Let's Talk!

Katie Hartman
khartman@ssc.coop
507.281.6667

BEE

The Spelling Bee is an exciting and challenging academic contest for students in grades 4-8. All levels of the Spelling Bee in Southeast Minnesota are possible due to the sponsorship of the Southeast Service Cooperative, and other local sponsors. The classroom, school-wide, and state-wide spelling bees eventually lead up to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Watch the video to learn more:
www.ssc.coop/student-programs/spelling

Dates:
Regional: February 4, 2025
Final: February 18, 2025

Minnesota Service Cooperative Knowledge Bowl™

Knowledge Bowl competitions are interdisciplinary academic contests for students in grades 7-12. Teams compete in rounds by answering questions related to multiple areas of learning. Questions test students' recall, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. This competition provides a format for student growth centered around academics. Watch the video to learn more:

www.ssc.coop/student-programs/jhkb

Dates:
Senior High (Grades 9 - 12) Winter/Spring
Junior High (Grades 7 - 9) Fall/Winter

Southeast Minnesota
School Crisis Response Team
Proudly Coordinated by Southeast Service Cooperative

School Crisis Response Team

The SE Minnesota School Crisis Response Team provides support, guidance and resources to schools during and after a serious loss.

Support Team:

- Formed in 2023 as a voluntary partnership between school districts and SSC.
- Specially trained in school crisis response, aka Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).
- Work as school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, teachers, nurses, and other related positions in school districts and local government throughout the counties and districts in southeast Minnesota.



Why Call Us?

We know your district has a crisis emergency plan in place to deal with fire, tornado, intruders, etc. The SCRT is different. We help when your school experiences a student or staff death due to accident, suicide, illness or other tragic event. We really should be called a “school tragedy response team”.

We deploy team members who are unattached to your district and without strong emotional ties to the students or staff. This allows them to make decisions more objectively, and counsel groups and support individuals to assist in restoring the emotional well-being of the school community.

How Can We Help

When you call us, you gain access to a highly-skilled team that has experience helping districts through serious loss.

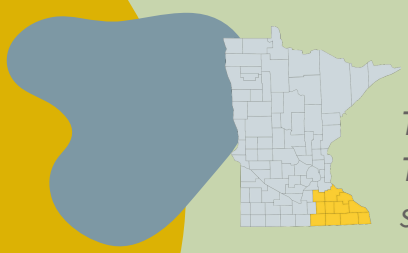
- We assign an on-site Team Leader who will lead our coordinated, on-site support for those affected by the tragedy.
- We provide a framework for individuals to begin a healthy grieving process.
- We can identify individuals who may require follow-up services.

Contact Us

Team Coordinator
Nicole LaChapelle-Strumski

507-696-9476
nlachapelle@ssc.coop

If unable to reach Nicole, contact Kari Kubicek
507-358-2352
kkubicek@ssc.coop



The SE Minnesota School Crisis Response Team is funded by MDE and provides free services to schools in southeast Minnesota.

Southeast Service Cooperative

CREATIVE MEDIA SOLUTIONS



Southeast Service Cooperative and **South Central Service Cooperative** have partnered to provide our members with communications services through **Creative Media Solutions**. Let our professional media experts support you with strategic guidance, creative resources, and industry insights. We will work with you to understand your goals and target audience, and develop a customized plan and a compelling product. By leveraging our expertise, members can save time, reduce costs, and achieve their objectives.

MEDIA SERVICES

- Video Production
- Event Photography
- Image Editing
- Professional Photos

MARKETING SERVICES

- Branding/Re-branding Guidelines
- Community Engagement
- Referendum Communications
- Fundraising Campaign Tools
- Social Media Audit and Planning
- Graphic Design
- Signage
- Professional Development

CREATIVE MEDIA SOLUTIONS

Contact Katie at SSC for a customized quote.

Southeast Service Cooperative



Katie Hendrickson

507-281-6687

khendrickson@ssc.coop



STEM FORWARD

Your local STEM connection.

www.ssc.coop/stemforward

MISSION & VISION

MISSION
To promote STEM excellence in our K-12 schools.

VISION
Inspiring the future of a STEM ready workforce.

THE CHALLENGE:

- National, state, and local need for a strong STEM workforce.
- STEM literacy for everyone is an equity issue.
- Need for a local cohesive approach to STEM education.

> STEM Forward is doing such a great job of getting kids the life experiences/opportunities to empower their futures.
>
> ★★★★★ Chris Gogolewski, Middle School Teacher
> *Austin, MN*

WHY JOIN US?

- **COLLABORATION:** STEM Forward fosters collaboration between education, industry, non-profits, and community partners.
- **SHARED GOALS:** Working together to achieve a common goal: a strong regional STEM ecosystem.

BENEFITS:

- **EDUCATORS:** Access to resources, professional development, and networking opportunities.
- **BUSINESS:** Connect with a future-ready workforce and shape the curriculum.
- **NON-PROFITS:** Amplify your impact through collaboration.

INITIATIVES & IMPACT

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**: Upskilling educators and fostering connections.
  - *Educator Forum received an 86 Net Promoter Score in 2024 (World-class Ranking)*
  - 535 Continuing Education Units in 2024
  - *Asset mapping to identify current and potential partners*
- **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**: Providing resources for innovative STEM programs.
  - *Over $200K in grants to rural and under-represented communities*
- **CAREER AWARENESS:** Shining a light on STEM careers.
  - *Launching 10-15 Internships and 25 micro-internships in 2024 and 2025..*
- **OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS:** Celebrating educators for inspiring the minds of youth in STEM.
  - *Ten educators will be honored on Feb. 12, 2025.*

CONTACT US

sness@ssc.coop

507-281-6678



Learn more!

STEM FORWARD

www.ssc.coop/stemforward

ADVISORY MEETINGS

Network partners meet every other month for networking and peer-to-peer professional development on topics impacting our regional network. Best practices, innovations, grants, and resources are shared to promote and enhance STEM excellence and opoortunties in southeast Minnesota.

EDUCATOR FORUMS

This multifaceted event upskills educators' STEM pedagogy confidence and networks through peer-to-peer best practice sharing, connects regional STEM ecosystem members to resources that enhance the student STEM learning experience, and connects future educators to experiential STEM teaching experiences and careers available locally. CEU's and dinner provided. (This event is free for participating STEM Forward organizations.)

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS & DINNER

The Outstanding Educator Award of STEM Forward (formerly RAMSP) recognizes educators who strive toward the highest levels of excellence within their schools and community, with a focus on STEM initiative and continuous improvement in every aspect of their work. Nominees and award winners are celebrated at a community dinner and celebration.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Career Awareness Campaigns help shine a light on STEM sector careers and local community efforts to fill those roles. Many campaigns include social media and print support templates, best practices, and more.

GRANTS & RESOURCES

2023-2024 will be a year to remember! Three grant opportunities will be catalyzed through the STEM Forward network.

- STEM Justice | Partners: Ignite Afterschool, Minnesota Science Museum, & MN STEM Ecosystem | Funded by: Tina Smith's Office
- Renewable Energy | Partners: We Share Solar | Funded by: We Share Solar
- Launch Integration | Partners: Project Lead the Way | Funded by: Project Lead the Way

STEM DAY AT THE MN STATE FAIR

On the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair, in partnership with SciMathMN and other Minnesota STEM ecosystem partners, kids of all ages celebrate and explore the wonders of STEM through hands-on learning, interactive STEM experiences, and connections to nonprofit STEM education providers, student groups, and local businesses. Taking place in Dan Patch Park over 30 exhibitors provide hands-on and interactive opportunities to explore, discover, create, and be inspired.

CONTACT US

sness@ssc.coop

507-281-6678



Example of our work:

YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING



PAGE 2

Invest in Your Future Workforce & Community

PAGE 3

Local Impact | Success Stories

Southeast Service Cooperative

WELCOME

Southeast Service Cooperative

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Career-Connected Learning Solutions (CCLS) at Southeast Service Cooperative (SSC).

We understand the challenges businesses face in today's job market. Finding qualified workers is becoming increasingly difficult, impacting productivity, customer service, and ultimately, your bottom line.

At SSC, we believe in fostering a strong workforce and building a thriving community. CCLS was created with this very purpose in mind: to connect businesses with the talented and motivated youth of Southeast Minnesota.

In this document, we'll show you how supporting CCLS offers a win-win situation. Industry gains access to a pool of future talent, while investing in a program that empowers students and strengthens our local economy.

We invite you to explore the many benefits of championing CCLS and join us in shaping a brighter future for our region.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY

DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost per hire for one position is nearly $4,700.

This substantial investment doesn't guarantee finding the right fit, often leading to a repeated, costly cycle.
-Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

At Southeast Service Cooperative's Career-Connected Learning Solutions (CCLS), we bridge the gap between businesses and the future workforce. Here's how championing CCLS can benefit industry:

- **Build Your Talent Pipeline:** Gain access to a pool of qualified and motivated students interested in your field. CCLS connects you with thousands of young people across Southeast Minnesota through career exploration events, job fairs, and mentorship opportunities.
- **Reduce Recruitment Costs:** By connecting with potential employees before they graduate high school, you can save time and money on traditional recruiting methods. CCLS helps you build relationships with future talent early on, increasing the chances they'll consider your company after graduation.
- **Enhance Your Brand Awareness:** Showcase your company as a leader in workforce development and a committed member of the Southeast Minnesota community. Through CCLS , you'll gain valuable brand exposure through our extensive network of schools, students, and community partners.
- **Invest in Innovation:** CCLS interns and mentees bring fresh ideas and perspectives to your company. This can lead to increased innovation and a more competitive edge in the marketplace.
- **Maximize Your ROI:** CCLS offer a high return on investment. By connecting with future talent early on, you can reduce recruitment costs and build a strong talent pipeline for years to come.

WHAT AM I SPONSORING?

Join us in supporting the youth of our community and our career-connected learning programs. Your sponsorship will provide invaluable experiences along the 3 E's Framework below.

Thanks to champions like you, we are able to support the following programs across the 11-county region of Southeast Minnesota:

- #IAMCTE
- Changemaker Hub
- Discover Healthcare
- Future*Forward*
- Future*Forward* Career and College Fair
- Future*Forward* Jobs Board (Internship & Micro-Internships)
- Future*Forward* Industry Partner of the Year Awards
- Groundhog Job Shadows
- Manufacturing Month
- Middle School Career Academy
- NitroX Camp
- Outstanding Educator Awards
- SE Minnesota Post-Secondary Guide
- SE MN Welding Competition
- STEM Forward Educator Forum & TechFest
- Student Career-Connected Learning Survey

By investing in career-connected learning, you contribute to a thriving community where businesses flourish and local talent shines.

DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2019 and 2022, 40% (8,910 high school graduates) in Southeast Minnesota did not enroll in college, and only 19% of those students worked full-time.

By investing in career-connected learning, you can create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy by supporting the growth and development of your community's workforce.
-Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (2024)



3 E's Framework

LOCAL IMPACT

7/1/23-6/30/24

+48%
Student Experiences (9,502)

+60%
Industry Partnerships (559)

+75%
Future*Forward*™ Unique Events (115,604)

2268
Future*Forward*™ Contact Forms Sent (New in 2024!)

71%
Mentorship & Internship Interest High School Youth

5/1/24
Creation of Future*Forward* Jobs Board

1100 Views
660 Clicks
14 Paid Internships
& Micro-Internships Pilot

"All Craft Exteriors feel that we absolutely need to attend events like the Career Fair in Cannon Falls. Our future, and the future of our industry, really depends on making sure that young people understand that there are plenty of rewarding, exciting and high paying jobs to be had in the building trades."
– Alex Ball, All Craft Exteriors



Southeast Service Cooperative. (2023-2024). Youth Career Survey.

"This is a great event for students, because they start their network here. The job placement for CTE training programs is almost at 100%."
– Ryan Stanley, Austin Public Schools CTE Educator

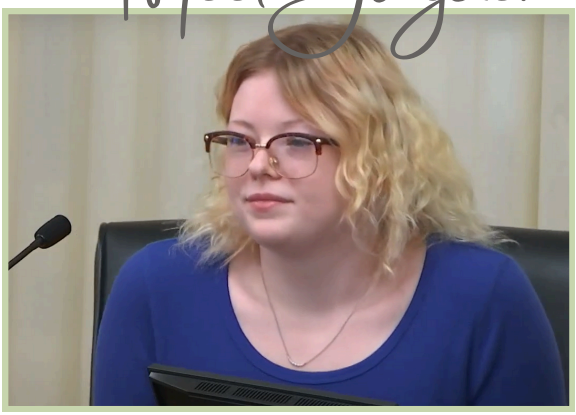
SUCCESS STORIES

Changing Lives, Building a Stronger Workforce

Real People, Real Results: How Career-Connected Learning Makes a Difference

Connecting students to local business professionals makes a profound impact in Southeast Minnesota! Here are just two inspiring stories that showcase the transformative power of these programs!

Meet Jayden



Jayden testifies at the Minnesota House of Representative's Education Finance Committee in 2023 to advocate for ongoing career-connected learning funding.

"This program changed my granddaughter's life," says Alicia, Jayden's grandmother. During her senior year amidst COVID-19, Jayden found traditional hands-on learning difficult due to restrictions at nursing homes. The Certified Nursing Assistant training program provided the support and motivation she needed to stay focused on her future.

The program helped Jayden gain valuable skills aligned with her chosen career path – becoming a CNA. With guidance from the SSC team, Jayden landed a job at Samaritan Bethany. She's forged connections with residents, forming a bond that feels more like family. Years after graduation, she's still loving her profession. Jayden's story is a testament to how career-connected learning programs empower students to achieve their career goals.

Meet Billy



Billy, a young man from southeast Minnesota, was considered at-risk with immense potential hidden beneath the surface. His passion for welding was ignited by a dedicated CTE teacher who saw his spark and encouraged Billy to participate in the SE MN Welding Competition at RCTC. He was able to not only showcase his skills and win his division, but also received a home welder in a raffle sponsored by industry partners like you!

Billy's dedication was undeniable. He set up his welder within a week, bringing his creations to class, and independently purchased gas to expand his skills. Witnessing Billy's self-motivation and passion, his teacher saw a future welder in the making.

This event provided Billy with the opportunity and resources to explore his passion. Your support fuels these programs, offering essential equipment, educational events, and scholarships. With your help, we can create more success stories like Billy's, ensuring students like him can thrive and pursue their chosen careers.

With your sponsorship, we can ensure more students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Together, we can create more success stories!

