



*Launch Your Future Today*

Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 29, 2025

**PRESENTATION & NOTES**

SWWC New Location - 100 London Rd., Marshall MN 56258

**Career & Technical Education**

# LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 – 10:00	Learning from the Field
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Career Navigators, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) &amp; Career Connectors, SW MN Private Industry Council</i></li></ul>
10:00 – 10:45	Apprenticeship Focused Conversation
10:45 – 11:05	LYFT & MSC CCL Updates
11:05 – 11:45	Priorities, Actions, Roles & Resources
11:45 – 12:00	Updates & Reflections/Up Next
12:00	Lunch/Networking

## Key Objectives...

- Identify opportunities for advancing work-based learning across the region
- Establish Action Plans/Resources for Top Priorities

# Welcome & Intros: LYFT Pathways Advisory Committee

Ally Carlson	Redwood Valley Area High School	Eric Day	Mid MN Development Commission
Andrea Moore	Hutchinson High School	Gail Polejewski	MN West Carl Perkins Secondary Coordinator
Briana Mumme	Southwest Initiative Foundation	James Miller	Willmar Area Chamber of Commerce
Bridget Paulson	Central MN Jobs & Training	Jay Trusty	SW Regional Development Commission
Bridget Borer	Nobles County Integration Collaborative	Kathryn Les	U of MN Extension
Bruce Bergeson	MN River Valley CTE Collaborative	Kelley McClure-Mork	Ridgewater College
Carrie Bendix	SW MN Private Industry Council	Lisa Graphenteen	Development Services, Inc./Meeker County EDA`
Cheryl Glaeser	Achieve Consulting	Luke Greiner	MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development
Christine Fischer	Small Business Development Center (SBDC)	Maria Peters	SW MN Private Industry Council
Craig Peters	MN West Community Technical College	Mark Matuska	Jackson County Central Schools
Dawn Hegland	Upper MN Valley RDC	Matthew Feuerborn	Ridgewater College
Diana Ristamaki	Central Minnesota Jobs and Training	Rick Jorgenson	Redwood Valley Area High School
Doug Jans	SWWC	Scott Marquardt	Southwest Initiative Foundation
Eriann Faris	SWWC	See Moua-Leske	SW MN Adult Basic Education



# Learning From the Field

## Learning from the Field

**Career Navigators,**  
Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) & **Career Connector,**  
SW MN Private Industry Council (PIC)



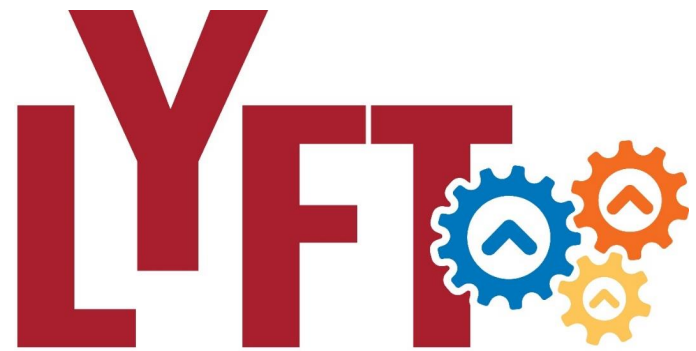
CAREER PATHWAYS

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## What are the takeaways from this example from the field?

- Partnerships are essential – educators, employers, workforce, community
- Building relationships across all is key
- Awareness/outreach should be strengthened
- Local champions are typically educators not admin
- Career Navigators need to be able to “sell” services as well as interact with youth
- One-on-one follow up is where the student “magic” happens
- How might we reach all students (including those who don’t “qualify” for these services)?



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# Apprenticeship Focused Conversation

## What is Youth Apprenticeship?

- **Structured (approved)** program combining academics + paid work
- For high school juniors/seniors
- Built with employers, educators, workforce partners
- Results in wages, credentials, and workplace skills

## Youth Apprenticeship, an Example of Work-Based Learning

- Falls under the **Work-Based Learning (WBL)** umbrella
- Connects classroom with real-world work
- Core features: Learning through work
- Supported by mentors
- Aligned with industry standards
- Builds progressive responsibility

## LYFT's Role In Youth Apprenticeship

- Deepens employer engagement
- Offers sustainable student experiences
- Builds rural talent pipelines
- **Aligns with LYFT's mission: "relevant, engaging opportunities"**

## Why Youth Apprenticeship Matters

- **Builds clear school-to-career pathways**
- Meets workforce needs in high-demand fields
- Promotes equity and opportunity
- Strengthens rural communities

## National Policy Momentum

- **April 2025 EO:** President Trump supports Registered Apprenticeships
- **March 2025 EO:** Shifts education authority to states/communities
  - *Empower local agencies and employers in structuring YA experiences*
  - Emphasizes 1M+ apprenticeships annually
- **Fact sheet** specify accelerating Registered Apprenticeship programs and integrating them with AI

# Youth Apprenticeship vs. Traditional WBL

<b><u>Feature</u></b>	<b><u>Youth Apprenticeship</u></b>	<b><u>CTE WBL</u></b>
Structure	Formal and approved program with DLI (i.e. Youth Skills Training- Registered Apprenticeship)	School-based course
Length	1-2 years	1 semester-1 year
Credentialing	Often credentialed	Sometimes credit
Wages	Paid	Sometimes unpaid
Mentorship	Structured, professional	Teacher/employer
Focus	Career + credential	Exposure + skills

# Discussion Notes:

## Challenges

- Lack of instructors w/ credentials
- Purpose/outcome of CTE @ secondary level – Is it exposure/experience or employment?
- How do we ensure student interest/buy-in?
- Employers are often “scared” of apprenticeships (union, vetting, inspection)
- Employers need intermediaries to support them; other states have them
- There is a need for earn & learn models IN the region (currently sending out)
- Apprenticeships aren’t a revenue-generator for colleges

## Opportunities

- LYFT can help navigate discussion/efforts across partners
- Identify the high-demand areas and focus efforts there
- Identify successful models and share these with other employers/educators
- Gather insights from employers – what are their pain points/interests?
- Bring legislators to the table to hear from educators/employers (with the hope of advocating for systems change)



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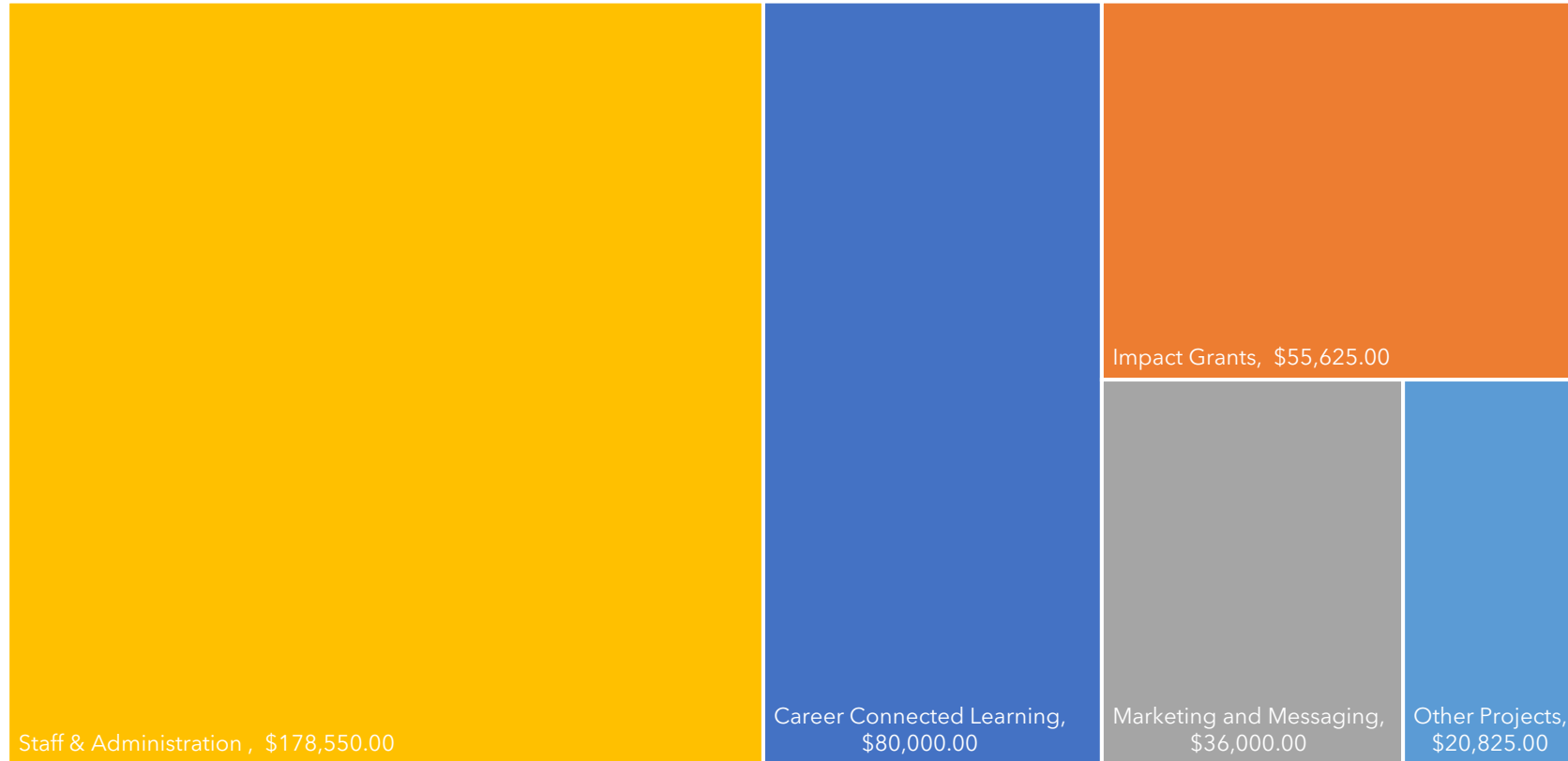
# UPDATES

Impact Grants, 3E's Roadmap, Career Pathway Guides

# 25-27 LYFT Career Pathways Budget

LYFT Career Pathways Proposed Budget for SFY 26 & SFY27

■ Career Connected Learning ■ Impact Grants ■ Marketing and Messaging ■ Staff & Administration ■ Other Projects



*Future Discussion...*

*How might we leverage and/or identify other sources of support to increase opportunities in our region?*

## NOTES:

- Reduced regional funds available for the next two years.
- State-funded opportunities are available to our region including FutureForward, CTE Teacher Licensure, CTE Teacher Induction Program, Metier, State-wide Communications/Awareness



# LYFT Career Pathways IMPACT GRANTS

**\$91,250 Available in SFY26 & SFY27**

**\$179,961.72 Awarded in SFY25**

**\$336,864 Awarded in SFY24**

*Funded Project:*  
Technology Integration for Industrial Programs - Adrian Schools



**Medical Careers Program**



*Funded Project:*  
Manufacturing and Health Care Exploratory Camps - Hutchinson Schools

**Educational and Organizational Partners**

Minnesota West Community and Technical College  
Service (and support)

**Industry and Business Connections**

45 School Districts  
6 Sponsor Organizations  
238 Businesses

**Career Pathway Programs**

- Welding program with expanded offerings leading to a 2-credit certification.
- Certified Nursing Assistant Program
- CDL (Commercial Driver's License) training with consistent strong enrollment.

**Lessons Learned and Future Plans**

- Continue to focus on hands-on activities and business engagement.
- Continue to educate staff on all communities (LGBTQ+, BIPOC, under-served and under-represented).
- Continued Mental Health First Aid training.
- Being culturally competent.

For more information contact Diana Ristamaki at [dristamaki@cnjts.org](mailto:dristamaki@cnjts.org) or Maria Peters at [mpeters@swwc.edu](mailto:mpeters@swwc.edu)



*Funded Project:*  
Foundations of Medical Careers - Montevideo Schools



*Funded Project:*  
Advanced Welding - Ortonville Schools

**Students Impacted 148**

**Project Goals & Purpose**

This course allows students to explore a range of healthcare careers while gaining basic knowledge in medical terminology, ethics, wellness, disease, and safety. The fall semester focuses on developing problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and interpersonal communication. Students hear from various medical professionals and practice clinical skills.

**Industry Connections**

- Sanford Health
- Pipestone County Medical Center
- Adrian Family Dental
- Lewis Family Drug
- New Life Treatment Center
- Rock County Chiropractic
- Reactive Wellness
- Oasis Care Home
- Good Samaritan Society - Poplar Creek Estates

**Partners**

- AMERICAN DRAGONS
- SWWC
- HEALTH SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

**Key Outcomes & Success Stories**

Nearly 1,000 hours of community interaction this year, including 175 volunteer hours this semester and 800+ during the next semester!

For more information contact Kate Anderson at SWWC.

# LYFT 3E's Roadmap (Updated Web Site)

Help Us Improve. Share Your Feedback!

Give Feedback



EXPLORATION

EXPOSURE

EXPERIENCE

GET STARTED



LYFT Career Pathways 3 E's Roadmap

## Find Your Path to a Fulfilling Career



START YOUR JOURNEY



<https://3es.lyftpathways.org/>

# LYFT Career Pathway Guides



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## From High School Halls to Careers



### LYFT Career Pathways

LYFT Career Pathways is a regional initiative focused on strengthening career and technical education opportunities across southwest and west central Minnesota. The goal is simple: to help students explore high-wage, high-demand careers and gain skills that prepare them for the workforce and postsecondary education.

- Through LYFT, students at Minnesota Public Schools have access to:
- Specialized high school courses in career fields like healthcare, engineering, agriculture, and more
  - Opportunities to earn industry certifications and college credit
  - Real-world learning like job shadowing, internships, and hands-on projects
  - Support in building a high school plan that leads to future success

### Southwest West Central Service Cooperative

SWWC is an education service agency that supports public Minnesota, including Minnesota. They provide schools with support in areas like:

- Career and technical education
- Spatial education and student services
- Technology and professional development
- Administrative services and resources for schools and educators

SWWC is proud to manage the LYFT Career Pathways initiative and provide technical support to ensure students are graduating career- and college-ready.

### Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS)

CMJTS is a nonprofit employment and training organization serving communities in central Minnesota. Dedicated to workforce readiness, CMJTS partners with schools, families, and employers to provide students with meaningful career development opportunities.

- At Minnesota and across the region, CMJTS offers:
- Career navigation and individualized career planning
  - School-based and regional Career Connector support
  - Access to work-based learning, apprenticeships, and career fairs
  - Support for students exploring non-traditional career paths

Whether students are headed to college, a trade, or a job, CMJTS helps them make informed, confident transitions into the workforce.

Learn more at [www.cmjts.org](http://www.cmjts.org).

## Welcome STUDENTS & FAMILIES,

We're excited to partner with you as you explore the wide range of career and technical education opportunities available through LYFT Career Pathways and the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC).

This guide was created to help you learn more about high-demand, high-wage career fields and the courses available at your school to support your future goals.

**STUDENTS** — You don't need to have your future all figured out just yet. This guide is here to help you explore different options, discover your interests, and begin planning your high school journey with purpose. Use it to identify classes, certifications, and experiences that match your passions.

**PARENTS** — We recognize the vital role you play in helping your child plan for the future. Whether your student is headed to college, the workforce, or military service, this guide will help you support informed decisions and open new possibilities.

**EDUCATORS AND COUNSELORS** — Your knowledge of each student's unique strengths, skills, and interests is invaluable. This guide is a tool to help connect students with courses, experiences, and career paths that align with their potential.

Together, we are committed to preparing students for life beyond high school—whether that means entering the workforce, pursuing a trade, or continuing their education. With the right plan, students graduate with confidence and a head start on success.

Sincerely,  
The LYFT Career Pathways & SWWC Team



## LYFT Career Pathways 3Es Roadmap

Helping Students Build a Meaningful Plan for the Future

Whether you're a student thinking about what's next, a parent supporting your child's future, or an educator helping students identify their strengths, the LYFT Career Pathways 3Es Roadmap is here to guide the way.

The journey through high school is full of opportunities—and sometimes, uncertainty. The 3Es Roadmap provides a simple, flexible framework that helps students connect their interests with real-world experiences and future possibilities.

#### Explore Your Strengths and Interests

This is where it all begins. Students are encouraged to discover what they enjoy, what they're good at, and how those strengths can connect to a career. Exploration can happen in the classroom, through interest surveys, or during conversations with trusted adults and mentors.

#### Exposure to Career Opportunities

Seeing is believing. Once students have started to identify areas of interest, it's time to learn more about the career options available to them. Exposure happens through guest speakers, career fairs, field trips, career videos, and interactions with local professionals.

#### Experience Real-World Learning

Hands-on experience is one of the most powerful ways to build confidence and direction. Whether through job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, industry tours, or school-based enterprises, students get the chance to apply what they've learned and see where their future could lead.

### The 3Es in Action

The 3Es Roadmap is at the heart of LYFT Career Pathways—and it's already making a difference for students across southwest and west central Minnesota.

- "The 3Es helped me realize I wanted to go into early childhood education. My internship confirmed it, and now I'm earning college credit before graduation!" — Local Student
- "Watching my son get hands-on experience through job shadowing gave him so much direction. He's now looking into a welding program." — Parent
- "We've seen students go from unsure to excited after participating in career exposure activities. It's transformative." — High School Counselor

With the support of schools, families, community partners, and regional resources, the 3Es Roadmap gives every student the chance to explore, engage, and envision a future filled with purpose and possibility.

Learn more and start your journey at [3es.lyftpathways.org](http://3es.lyftpathways.org)

## EXPLORING YOUR FUTURE, TOGETHER

A Partnership Between Minnesota Public Schools, SWWC, and LYFT Career Pathways

At Minnesota Public Schools, we believe in preparing students not only for graduation—but for life. Through a strong partnership with the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC) and the LYFT Career Pathways initiative, we're creating real opportunities for students to explore careers, develop skills, and launch toward a successful future.

Together, we are helping students connect high school learning to in-demand, high-wage careers—right here in our region.

### Minnesota Career Pathways include:

- Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology
- Health Science Technology
- Human Services
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Business, Management & Administration

Each pathway offers hands-on learning, career exploration, college credit, industry-recognized certifications, and real-world experiences designed to help students graduate confident and career-ready.

## POWERED BY COLLABORATION

This guide—and the pathways it showcases—are made possible through the collaboration of:

- Minnesota Public Schools, committed to student success and community connection.
- SWWC, a regional service cooperative supporting career and technical education across southwest and west central Minnesota.
- LYFT Career Pathways, a rural CTE initiative helping students explore and prepare for high-demand careers.

Together, we're ensuring every student has access to opportunities that matter—today and tomorrow.

LEARN MORE Explore programs, resources, and stories at [www.lyftpathways.org](http://www.lyftpathways.org)



CAREER PATHWAYS  
Launch Your Future Today

## HUMAN SERVICES CAREER PATHWAY

EXPLORE → DEVELOP SKILLS → SPECIALIZE

### 9th Grade: Foundation & Exploration

- Introduction to Human Services (e.g., Teen Living, Health, Careers)
- English 9
- Algebra I or Geometry
- Biology
- PE/Health

### 10th Grade: Skill Building

- Child Development or Parenting
- Computer Applications or Digital Tools
- Chemistry or Earth Science
- English 10
- Psychology

### 11th Grade: Career Exposure & Certifications

- Early Childhood Education or Teacher Cadet I
- Family & Consumer Science II or Social Services Careers
- College REACH Human Growth & Development (Dual Credit)
- First Aid/CPR Certification
- On-the-Job Training (OJT) or Internship

### 12th Grade: Specialization & Leadership

- Teacher Cadet II or Education Pathway Practicum
- Sociology or Psychology II
- Leadership/Community Service Capstone
- Dual Credit Opportunities: Intro to Social Work, Education 101, etc.

### Certification Opportunities

- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- CPR/First Aid
- ServSafe (for culinary/hospitality track)

### Career Pathways After Graduation

- Early Childhood Educator
- Teacher / Counselor / Social Worker
- Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice
- Cosmetologist (requires Cosmetology electives/licensure)
- Culinary/Hospitality Manager
- Community Outreach / Nonprofits Worker

## HUMAN SERVICES CHILD, FAMILY, AND SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS IN SW MINNESOTA

**JOB GROWTH** (2022-2023): 4.6%

**NEW JOB OPENINGS** (2022-2023): 222

**ANNUAL EARNINGS:** ENTRY LEVEL: \$56,590; AVERAGE: \$63,931; EXPERIENCED: \$77,712 or more

### Quote?

At Minnesota Public Schools, we strive to develop well-rounded, compassionate, and capable graduates—individuals who embody the strength, resilience, and integrity of our Viking heritage. This Portrait of a Graduate reflects the competencies aligned with Minnesota's education standards and the unique character of our community.

#### CURIOUS AND CRITICAL THINKER

- Approaches learning with curiosity and creativity.
- Applies critical thinking to solve complex problems.
- Seeks out new knowledge and adapts to change with confidence.

#### SKILLED COMMUNICATOR

- Expresses ideas clearly and respectfully in speech and writing.
- Actively listens and engages in meaningful conversations.
- Uses communication to build understanding and inspire others.

#### COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE LEADER

- Leads with empathy, courage, and a commitment to others.
- Works effectively in diverse teams to achieve common goals.
- Uplifts others and leads with integrity—whether on the field, in the classroom, or in the community.

#### ENGAGED AND ETHICAL CITIZEN

- Respects diversity and acts with compassion and fairness.
- Participates in civic life and contributes to the greater good.
- Upholds the values of honesty, responsibility, and community service.

#### DIGITALLY RESPONSIBLE AND INNOVATIVE

- Uses technology ethically and responsibly.
- Applies digital tools to create, collaborate, and innovate.
- Navigates the digital world with safety, discernment, and skill.

#### ACADEMICALLY AND CAREER-READY

- Demonstrates strong academic foundations in all core subjects.
- Applies knowledge and skills to real-world challenges.
- Sets goals and confidently pursues postsecondary education, careers, or service.

## THE VIKING SPIRIT

Above all, a Minnesota graduate carries the spirit of a Viking—bold, honorable, and resilient. Whether facing academic challenges or real-world obstacles, our graduates lead with heart, rise with strength, and never stop learning.

# Messaging and Marketing

## Q1 - 2025 Marketing Report

### LYFT Career Pathways

#### LINKEDIN

132

FOLLOWERS

24 Followers: 14

116

REACTIONS

24 Reactions: 128

14

PAGE VIEWS

24 Page Views: 91

2,652

IMPRESSIONS

24 Impressions: 4,535

#### INSTAGRAM

12

FOLLOWERS

23 Followers: 7

10

INTERACTIONS

23 Interactions: 3

133

REACH

23 Reach: 1,351

293

VEWS

24 Views: N/A

#### GOOGLE BUSINESS PROFILE

0

CALLS

11

WEBSITE CLICKS

171

DIRECTIONS

(Highest to lowest)



#### WEBSITE

- LYFT Conference Prep
- Career Exploration Landing Page
- Advisory Committee Member Briana Bio Page Update
- Blog:
  - LYFT Conference Blog
  - 4th Entrepreneurship Conference
- Project Pages Updated:
  - Diesel Mechanics
  - Medical Careers Program
  - Foundations of Medical Careers
  - Renewed Memories
  - Intro to Law Enforcement

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN

- LYFT Social Media Graphics
- LYFT Letterhead Template
- 3Es Website Graphic
- Career Exploration Booklet
- SWWC Career Expo Flyer
- 2025 Conference Materials: 8 LYFT Grant Posters & 8 Handouts, Agenda & Achieve Consulting Handouts
- SWWC Science & Nature Brochure
- FutureForward Handouts
- Revised 3Es Booklet
- LYFT Student Entrepreneurship Conference - Prompts and Challenges Handout.
- Entrepreneurs Bio Sheet



#### EMAIL

- | Month                       | Event                          | Recipients | Opens | Clicks | Unsubscribed | Bounces |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------|--------|--------------|---------|
| January - All               | Last Chance Register Conf.     | 1/9/25     | 761   | 37.7%  | 4.9%         | 2       |
|                             | Conf. Event Details            | 1/15/25    | 89    | 78.6%  | 48.8%        | 0       |
|                             | Conf. Wrap Up                  | 1/17/25    | 94    | 69.7%  | 29.2%        | 0       |
| January - Conf. Registrants | Conf. Wrap Up #2               | 1/22/25    | 92    | 61%    | 21%          | 5       |
|                             | Impact Grants                  | 1/30/25    | 759   | 49%    | 5%           | 28      |
|                             | Meeting Agenda                 | 2/11/25    | 119   | 58%    | 4%           | 0       |
| February - Employees        | 2025 Employer Events           | 2/13/25    | 397   | 37%    | 3%           | 17      |
|                             | Career Expo Registration       | 2/13/25    | 178   | 27.1%  | 0%           | 8       |
|                             | Enrichment Recap & Opportunity | 2/26/25    | 218   | 55%    | 5%           | 2       |
| March - Employers & Schools | Workplace Rights Session       | 3/4/25     | 283   | 39%    | 3%           | 24      |
|                             | Meeting Recap                  | 3/5/25     | 119   | 61.6%  | 9.3%         | 11      |
|                             | Funding Opportunity            | 3/11/25    | 387   | 50.3%  | 6.1%         | 9       |

2025

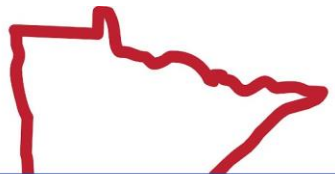
ShutUpPoint

# FutureForward™



FutureForward™ adds value to students' career exploration by making connections with local employers, and navigate their path to success, while supporting educators and businesses in building a strong, local workforce.

- Explore career opportunities
- Connect with professionals
- Strengthen communities



Career Connected Learning

*MSC* Agile • Local • Impact



# Child Development Associate Pilot Project

## LAUNCH

# YOUR CHILD CARE CAREER IN HIGH SCHOOL!

Earn a Nationally-Recognized Certified Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential Before You Graduate!

### WHAT IS A CDA?

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) is the gold standard for anyone who wants to work with children. And guess what? You can start earning it in high school—whether your school has a CDA teacher or not!

### WHY EARN ONE?

- Be job-ready when you graduate
- Earn college credit in high school
- Boost your skills and confidence to work with young children
- Certified aides often earn \$5/hour more than non-certified staff
- Take online coursework during your school day, no matter your school!

### HOW IT WORKS:

1. Take CDA classes (virtually at MN River Valley CTE or in-person if your school offers it)
2. Get 480 hours of hands-on (we'll help you find local placements!)
3. Create a professional portfolio with templates and mentor support
4. Pass the CDA exam
5. Graduate with credentials and career options!

CDA may count as college credit in Early Childhood Education

### WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Love working with kids?
- Thinking about a career in teaching, child care, pediatrics, or human services?
- Want a flexible, supported, and meaningful path after high school?

### NEXT STEP:

Ask your school counselor or teacher about the CDA pilot program.  
No teacher at your school? No problem, the hybrid option makes it possible for you to participate virtually!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## Help Launch

# THE NEXT GENERATION of Child Care Professionals

The Minnesota River Valley CTE Collaborative is launching a pilot CDA pathway for the 2025–26 school year—with full rollout expected in 2026–27. **Even one student can kick off a pilot at your school.**

### WHAT IS A CDA?

The Child Development Associate® is a nationally recognized credential requiring:

- 120 classroom hours
- 480 hours earned taking child development 1x11
- Portfolio completion
- Final exam

### WHY CDA?

- Responds to a critical need for qualified child care staff
- Gives students career-ready skills and improved earning potential
- Opens college credit pathways
- Flexible format fits any student schedule

### PILOT PROGRAM FEATURES:

- Hybrid learning for schools without a CDA teacher (instruction + portfolio support online)
- Empower to Educate partnership for tracking and mentoring
- Funding available from LYFT Career Pathways + SWIF (covers instruction, materials, and more)

### WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

- Do you know students already working in child care settings?
- Are there students exploring post-grad options?
- Identify students with an interest in early childhood, education, pediatrics and more—**invite them to join the pilot!**

Contact Eriann Faris [eriann.faris@swwc.org](mailto:eriann.faris@swwc.org) or Bruce Bergeson [bbergeson@mrved.net](mailto:bbergeson@mrved.net) to recommend students or get your school started.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SCAN QR CODE to discover more!



# MSC CCL Updates



Teacher Externships  
& Professional Development



Teacher Preparation  
& Licensure Programs



Teacher Induction  
& Mentoring





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# FY 25-26 Priorities

Affirming Top Priorities

Identifying Roles & Resources

Establishing Action Plans

# Review: Current/Future Priorities

- Career-Connected Learning
  - Work-based Learning
- Impact Grants
- Teacher Prep/Support

## **Objectives:**

### **Establish Consistent Liaisons:**

- Appoint dedicated liaisons to facilitate communication and partnerships between schools and local businesses.
- Ensure liaisons are accessible to both schools and businesses to bridge gaps in connections and capacity.

### **Expand Career-Connected Learning:**

- Continue hosting exploration events while expanding support for ongoing career-connected learning opportunities.
- Integrate career planning into the curriculum to provide students with continuous career guidance.
- Maintain and strengthen connections with industry partners and post-secondary institutions to provide students with relevant and current learning opportunities

### **Optimize School Schedules for CTE and WBL**

- Collaborate with schools to develop schedules that accommodate Career and Technical Education (CTE) and work-based learning.
- Explore block or alternating schedules to provide flexibility for community partnerships.

### **Meet Employer Needs for Basic Skills:**

- Address employer needs for basic skills such as communication, punctuality, and professionalism through targeted Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs.
- Partner with employers to teach students specific job skills while reinforcing essential soft skills.

### **Alignment with Perkins to Improve High School Experience:**

- Ensure alignment with Perkins requirements, focusing on enhancing the high school experience through access to up-to-date equipment, resources, licensure, and program approval.

# Priorities (FY26-27): Your Insights

- Career-Connected Learning
  - Work-based Learning
- Impact Grants
- Teacher Prep/Support

## What might be missing?

- Focused attention and resources for public relations/outreach
- Intentional funding strategies
- More career navigators/coordinators

**Are these the right priorities? YES**

## What might need adjustment or more intentional focus?

- Greater support to cultivate “passionate leaders/champions” (mention of importance of career navigators/coordinators)
- Helping schools with revising student registration guides (Career Pathway Guides); may also aid scheduling conflict discussions
- Discussion/plans of how to integrate work-based learning for all students

# Your Insights...

## What are some of the ways in which you/your organization is currently supporting schools?

### Student Experiences

- Job Shadows
- Job Applications
- Hosting Interns
- Employability presentations
- Internship classes/placements
- Student presentations of local opportunities
- Entrepreneurship presentations
- Student volunteer opportunities
- Attending/promoting/coordinating career events (Ignite/SW Expo/etc.)
- Specific Courses/Certifications - welding, healthcare, CDL, FACS
- Providing transportation to events

### Business/Industry Connections

- Business/Industry Tours
  - Manufacturing
  - Healthcare Careers
- Providing the “why” to local employers
- Helping schools connect with employers and community partners
- Sharing best practices

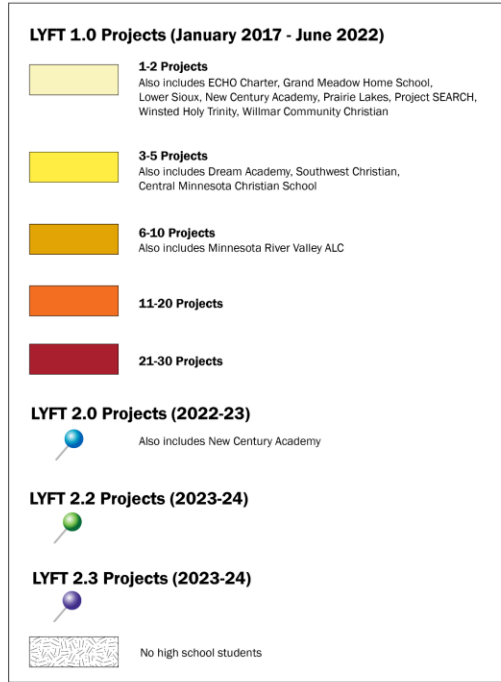
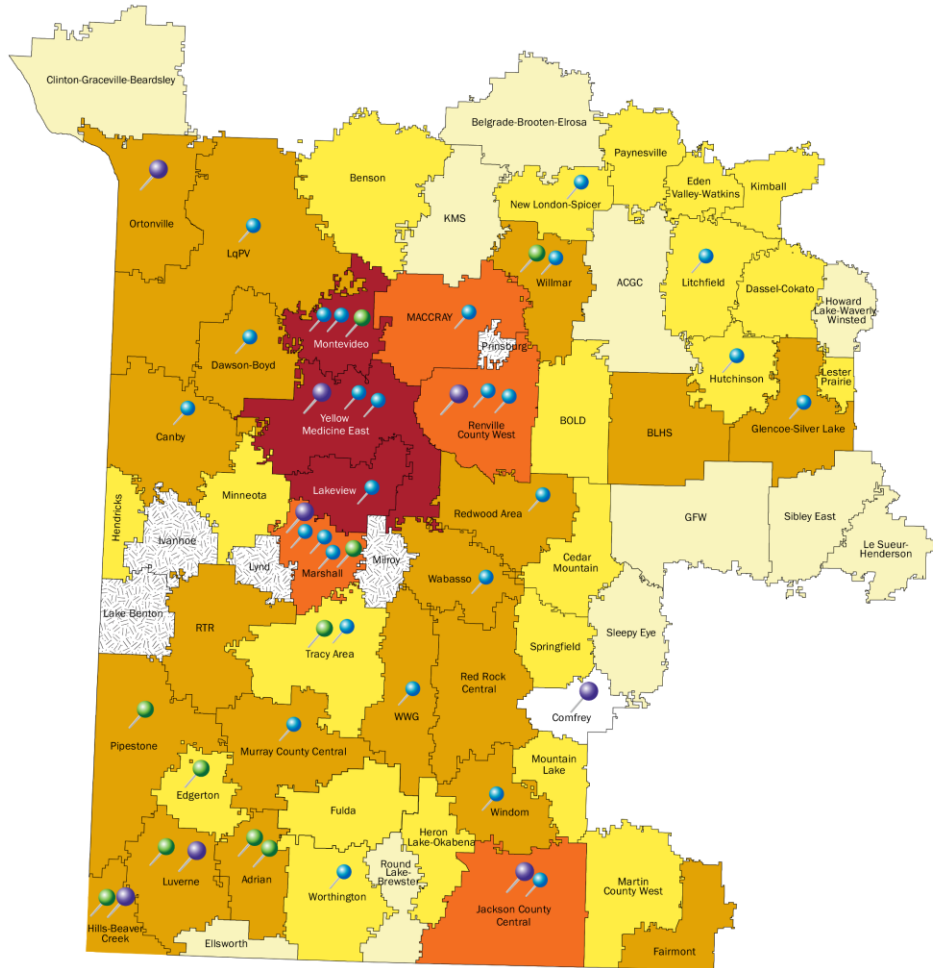
### Outreach/Awareness

- Student outreach
- Teacher Takeovers (Ridgewater connecting with HS teachers/students)

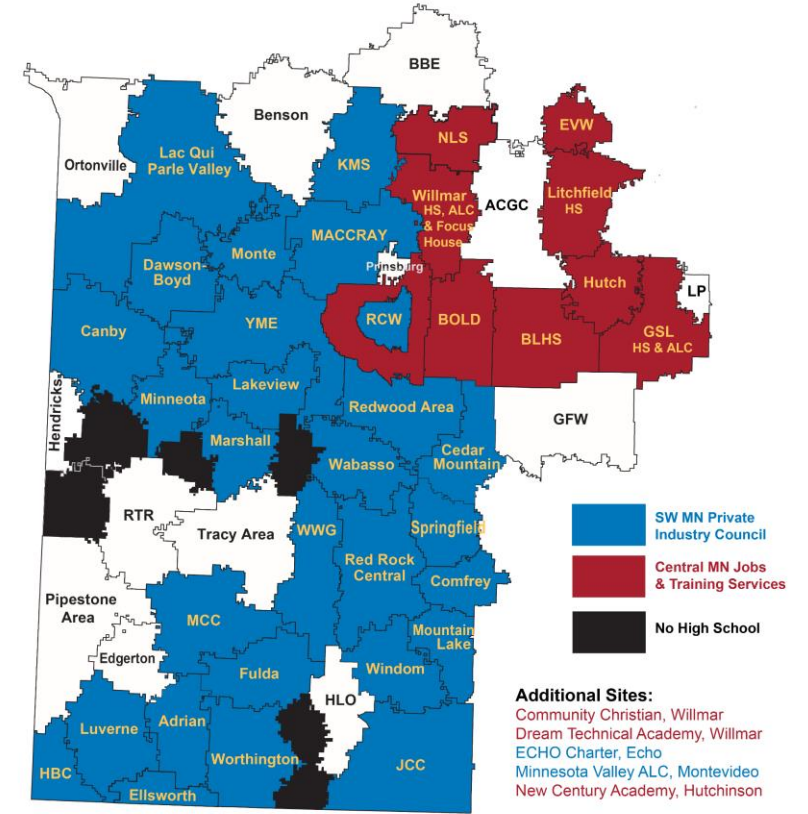
### Resources/Other Support

- Perkins alignment/leveraged funds
- Writing grants
- Sharing resources
- HS Faculty Prof Development
- LYFT Advisory Participation

# Identifying Gaps in Services and Support



## Career Connected Learning



**How about your organization? And what support do you provide our schools?**

# Gaps in Services and Support: Your Insights

What gaps in resources/partnerships are you seeing?

## **Career Development Instruction**

Mapping a career  
Choosing a lifestyle as opposed to a “job”;  
lifestyle goals that lead to a career

## **Student Attention**

Competition for time/over-scheduled

## **Awareness**

Economics of education  
Understanding what the workforce is in  
communities  
Decreasing volunteerism

## **District Support**

Identification of CTE opportunities  
Incentives/capacity to add more CTE and/or build  
connections  
Integrating CTE into the student experience (even  
if not taking CTE)  
Retaining designated/permanent/credentialed  
staff  
Class sizes; schedule optimization  
Lack of understanding of WBL as opportunity for  
any student

## **Blended Transitions From HS to higher education**

Cross purposes of PSEO/CIS  
K-16 funding model

***Time for building  
connections in  
our “hurry”  
culture!***

# Priorities: Roles, Resources & Actions

## ***What specific outcomes would you like to see this year?***

- **Career Navigators/Liaisons**

- Establish consistent liaisons (career navigators) for all schools; these are essential roles! (Mentioned by multiple)
- Menu & case studies of how career navigators are/can help schools
- How-To Guides with information on successful programs

- **Work-based Learning**

- Increased support for WBL opportunities for ALL students
- YCC work - increase WBL
- Identification of 2-4 fields for apprenticeship pilots
- Career-focused work experiences

- **Career Planning/Course Development**

- Increased opportunities for more students to be CTE Concentrators
- More integration of career planning within curriculum
- Develop a pathway for career navigator role
- School course guides/paths for every school
- Child development credential

### **Employer Support/Engagement**

- Meet employer needs for basic needs and SEL
- Employer survey or meeting to engage them in discussion on WBL/Apprenticeships
- Intentional work to bring additional funding from industry, other partners

### **Other**

- Exploration events
- Continue gathering/compiling information on gaps in the areas & how to address them
- CTE Teacher prep/support
- Guidance to SEC from post on EOPT purchases (??)

### **Questions??**

- *How might we incorporate AI?*
- *How can we coach teachers on integration of career planning; what do they need?*

# Priorities: Roles, Resources & Actions

*How do you envision you/your organization engaging in this work ?*

## **Outreach & Advocacy**

- Share what we are doing/the information we have found
- Advocate for more career navigator work in the region's schools
- Advocate for school course paths to be developed

## **Employer Engagement/Support**

- Help identify employers to engage in this work
- Meetings with employers to find out their needs and coordinating to provide those skills to students
- Schedule meetings with education and business professionals to meet workforce needs locally and let students explore careers that will meet their lifestyle goals
- Provide warm handoffs to local industry
- Industry gatherings
- Establish veteran partnerships to continue engaging work experiences for student

## **Student Initiatives/Support**

- YCC work
- Building out apprenticeships
- Provide entrepreneurship presentations
- Career Roadmaps
- K-12 Coordinator
- Recruit more students into career pathways that include CTE concentrations plus WBL placements

## **Educator Support**

- Retaining & training staff and strengthening current relationships with schools & businesses
- Serve as central location (Ridgewater) to host/support
- Work of faculty in post sec to mentor sec

# Priorities: Roles, Resources & Actions

## ***What additional resources might be leveraged to support our work?***

- FutureForward™ business profiles
- AI
- Private industry – if they see value, they will provide funding or cost share with districts on career navigators
- Perkins/WIOA, Pipeline, YST – alignment around common goals
- YCC and Career Pathway Credentialed Funding
- MAELC or Centers of Excellence

## ***What action steps should we take in the next 3-6 months?***

- Outreach to schools about career navigator services, LYFT grants, need for career path guides
- Outreach to local districts – get dates on the calendar for outreach purposes
- Determine a financial model to assist schools & communities to meet students and workforce desires through a career navigator

# Priorities: Roles, Resources & Actions

- *What specific outcomes would you like to see this year?*
- *How do you envision you/your organization engaging in this work?*
- *What additional resources might be leveraged to support our work?*

- Career-Connected Learning
  - Work-based Learning
- Impact Grants
- Teacher Prep/Support



# Partner Updates & Reflections



Up Next...



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Comment, and  
Share!



# THANK YOU!

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