



Launch Your Future Today

Advisory Committee Meeting

Presentation and Notes

April 17, 2025

SWWC - 1420 East College Drive, Marshall MN 56258, Suite 800

Career & Technical Education

LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 –10:00	Learning from the Field: <i>Tiger Café: Marshall</i>
10:00 –10:45	LYFT Updates & Planning
10:45 –11:10	LYFT Priorities: FY 26 and 27
11:10 – 11:50	Identifying Gaps in Services and Support
11:50 –12:00	Closing Reflections/Upcoming Events
12:00	Lunch/Networking

Key Objectives...

- Affirm our priorities for FY26 and 27
- Identify opportunities for advancing work-based learning across the region.
- Explore our impact and identify gaps in service to all schools.
- Explore ways to support career-connected learning and ensure the sustainability of our work.

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 Leske	SW MN Adult Basic Education

Learning from the Field

Tiger Café: Marshall Public Schools



Your Insights...

What are the takeaways that might be replicated across LYFT partnerships?

Initiatives like these...

- Make student learning relevant
- Require a “passionate leader/champion” not only at the start but ongoing
- Are more successful when there is buy-in from administration
- Teach students that failure and risk is OK
- Provide new opportunities for English Language learners
- Can help showcase local careers when tied with local business
- Benefit from use of NextUp Curriculum (SPED)

Your Insights...

There are opportunities for growth/expansion of these models (i.e. student enterprises/entrepreneurship).

How might we scale and sustain career-connected learning opportunities like these?

- Provide how to guides or manuals for easier start-up based on successful models
- Incorporate additional classes – accounting, business, etc.
- Ensure business office shares the financials with teacher/students (huge opportunity for learning)
- Create greater community connections/engagement and administrative buy-in to aid sustainability
- Support the “Passionate Leaders/Champions” through mixers/PD across multiple districts or LYFT projects
- Provide support school – by- school to identify opportunities, champions, etc.
- Help schools consider and build in sustainability plan (succession plans)
- Consider opportunities for these initiatives as regional projects (more than one school)
- Create broader awareness/outreach to improve engagement

How to keep an ongoing student enterprise fresh for new students...

- Engage in every day decisions – reviewing business costs, margins, annual plans
- Provide opportunity for students to identify new products/services within the model
- Create competitive challenges to improve business/increase revenue of prior student group
- Work on incorporating AI into the models

IMPACT GRANTS: Update

\$134,000 Available in 24-25

\$108,480 Awarded in 24-25

Schools Awarded

1. Willmar Public School WBL
2. Willmar Public School CNA
3. JCC Middle School
4. Tracy Area Public School
5. Lac qui Parle/DWBY CDL
6. Hutchinson Camps
7. Canby Laser Sharp Kids
8. Montevideo Fabrication & Manufacturing
9. Marshall Public Schools CNA
10. Southwest MN CEO

Proposals in Que

1. Benson CNA- Reviewed, will be awarded after July 1st.
2. SW MN CEO on behalf of all 6 CEO Programs in SW MN- pending

Inquiries

1. Minneota Public School- Robotics
2. Murray County Central High School- Graphic Design

FutureForward™/Career Roadmaps



LYFT Career Pathways
Serving Southwest and West Central Minnesota

CONTACT US

3 Es Roadmap About LYFT LYFT Projects Partners Resources Grant Funding

HOME > RESOURCES

Future Forward

FutureForward™ helps students find their career passion and provides a space for classroom educators to guide students toward business professionals who share their knowledge and passion for keeping jobs local.

FutureForward™

Career Roadmaps are a dynamic tool designed to bridge the gap between education and workforce needs, providing a clear, structured pathway for students, parents, schools, and job seekers to enter high-demand careers. Visually map out career progression, required skills, and education pathways necessary for your company.

Career Roadmaps will help high school students explore careers in your company or occupations in your industry.

READ MORE

Career Roadmap: A Powerful Workforce Development Tool



Career Pathway Program

HEALTHCARE



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NURSE OR DOCTOR? LIKE HELPING PEOPLE? Consider a career in HEALTHCARE.

LEADS TO THESE JOBS:

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Dietician
- Health Information Technician
- Home Health Aide
- Medical Billing Coder
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physician
- Registered Nurse
- Therapist

WHAT WILL I DO?

- Nurses, therapists, and physicians work directly with patients to diagnose, treat, and comfort their patients
- Medical assistants and health information specialists keep history of medical records for insurance or future use
- Medical technicians and researchers work behind the scenes in the laboratory, analyzing blood samples and x-rays, or developing new cures for illnesses

IS THIS FOR ME?

- Good with people
- Patient
- Empathetic
- Flexible
- Attention to detail
- Strong communication

WHAT IS IT?

Healthcare careers focus on the health and well-being of patients, and advancing the cause of medicine. Work is performed generally in hospitals or clinics, but can also be found in offices, nursing facilities, and increasingly, people's homes. Technology has been transforming healthcare in recent years, allowing patients to receive better care and live longer, more productive lives.

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HEALTHCARE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL AND HEALTH CAREERS

Introduction to Medical and Health Careers provides students the opportunity to explore a wide variety of careers in an assortment of medical/healthcare settings. The course is designed to provide students the chance to see if a career in medical/health science is right for them; and if they determine they have an interest, it can help them narrow down the possible careers they might consider.

NURSING ASSISTANT

This course emphasizes the role of the nursing assistant and home health aide as a valuable member of any health care team. This course will introduce and prepare students for entry-level jobs in nursing home, hospitals, and other health care facilities. It also serves as an entry point for students interested in careers that require 2 and 4-year degrees.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Students will explore the role that food plays in everyday life. Emphasis will be placed on students to be good decision makers about their holistic health and wellness and the role that food plays in those decisions. Food safety, preparation, presentation, and aesthetics will be included in all units for this course.

NURSING ASSISTANT STATS IN MINNESOTA

JOB GROWTH OVER NEXT 10 YEARS: **5.7%** NEW JOBS OPENINGS OVER NEXT 10 YEARS: **39,285**

ANNUAL EARNINGS:	Entry-Level	Average	Experienced
	\$25,153	\$33,064	\$42,355

SOURCE - MN DEED, 2018; MN CAREERWISE, 2019

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING



CURIOUS HOW PRODUCTS ARE CREATED? Take a look at a career in ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING.

LEADS TO THESE JOBS:

- CNC Operator
- Electrical Technician
- Industrial Engineer
- Machine Operator
- Manufacturing Technician
- Mechanical Engineer
- Mechatronics Technician

WHAT IS IT?

Do you ever wonder how your phone or TV works? Or how all the appliances in your kitchen were created, and produced by engineers. Engineering and manufacturing is the process of applying math and science to the design and production of machines, equipment, and almost anything that is made.

WHAT WILL I DO?

- Design new products, equipment, or machinery
- Manufacture new products or machinery, usually in a production facility
- Create better processes to improve production
- Maintain the machines and computers that make products
- Inspect final products, providing quality assurance

IS THIS FOR ME?

- Attention to detail
- Critical thinking
- Technology-minded
- Math & science
- Dependable

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MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

This course is open to all students interested in discovering more about developing skills needed for a career in manufacturing or engineering. Concepts covered in this class will be production technologies and information to start on a high-performance manufacturing and/or engineering career pathway. Students will be given opportunities to develop important workplace knowledge and skills in the areas of safety, welding processes, precision machining, mechanical systems, fluid power, electrical controls, and automated systems.

ELECTRICAL CONTROLS

The Electrical Controls course will include Electrical Controls I (2 credits - 48 Hours) and Electrical Controls II (3 credits - 80 Hours). The course will combine online academic work and supervised lab work on the MN West campus. Electrical Controls introduces basic electrical concepts and electrical theory, analyzes electrical safety hazards and requirements, and demonstrates electrical circuit wiring and measurement. Students will conduct an in-depth analysis of electrical control circuits including the control of electromechanical devices, AC and DC motors, and solid-state control devices.

MACHINIST STATS IN MINNESOTA

JOB GROWTH OVER NEXT 10 YEARS: **5.4%** NEW JOBS OPENINGS OVER NEXT 10 YEARS: **14,059**

ANNUAL EARNINGS:	Entry-Level	Average	Experienced
	\$32,132	\$49,061	\$66,507

SOURCE - MN DEED, 2018; MN CAREERWISE, 2019

If you are interested in pursuing a career in **Manufacturing & Engineering**, please reach out to your local high school counselor to see what courses you should enroll in.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT: RITALKA, INC.

www.ritalka.com

RITALKA, Inc. - through its subsidiaries SpecSys, Inc. and RVI Inc. - provides a full range of engineering, manufacturing, and electronic services to its clients throughout multiple locations across the Minnesota River Valley and beyond.

RITALKA is growing, and is constantly looking for well-trained and qualified machinists, technicians, welders, and project managers to join our team.



3E's Roadmap Website



THE 3ES ROADMAP

Our 3Es is an extensive tool to help you sort through navigating "What's Next After High School?" and how you might get there. The 3Es Roadmap uses Exploration, Exposure and Experience to help you understand what it is you might enjoy most and how to get into that role. This handout will help you get started!

QUESTIONS:

- What are your top three interests?
- Where do you hope to live after high school?
- Are there careers available where you hope to live after school?

EXPLORATION

There are lots of different career options available, over 750 occupations exist in Minnesota alone. So, choosing a career pathway can be a little overwhelming. The best place to start exploring careers is to understand what you enjoy, what you're good at, and what you value most in your life or work environment. Once you know more about yourself, you can learn more about careers that might match what you've discovered. There are many occupations that would be an excellent fit, you just need to find them.

- 1 Explore Interests, Skills and Values
- 2 Match to Careers
- 3 Explore Top Career Choices

QUESTIONS:

- How much money will you make in your career of interest?
- What is the starting pay? After 1 year? 5 years?
- What do they do all day in that career?
- What are the educational requirements for the career? Do they offer scholarships, tuition assistance, or on-the-job training?

EXPERIENCE

Sitting in a classroom, doing online research, or participating in exposure events is one thing, but actually seeing how those concepts are applied in a real work situation is pretty exciting. Gaining experience in the real world of work is a great way to see how your studies and education pathway can lead you toward the career of your choice.

- 7 OJT, Internships & Apprenticeships
- 8 Shadowing
- 9 Training and Education

QUESTIONS:

- What are some opportunities to gain real-world experience?
- Take technical education and other classes that build your skills in your chose pathway

EXPOSURE

Which careers would provide an opportunity for work I might find interesting or exciting? As you consider your career pathway, it is important to gain exposure to lots of career options. Gaining exposure in your top careers can take place in various ways.

- 4 Career Videos
- 5 Worker Interviews
- 6 Tours, Events and Job Shadowing

QUESTIONS:

- Are there options to gain further experience via an internship or work experience program through school?
- As you've gained experience, you have likely found one or two careers that align best with who you are, but do you have a clear image of who you would like to be in the future? Your vision is a "picture" of what you desire in your work life. Putting this vision into words, can help you establish and reach your career goals.

NEXT STEP

Now that you have reviewed the 3Es, the next step is to fill out the in-depth 3Es Worksheet online and then start implementing. Scan the code below to visit our website:



Or visit www.lyftpathways.org and click on "3 Es Roadmap"

QUESTIONS:

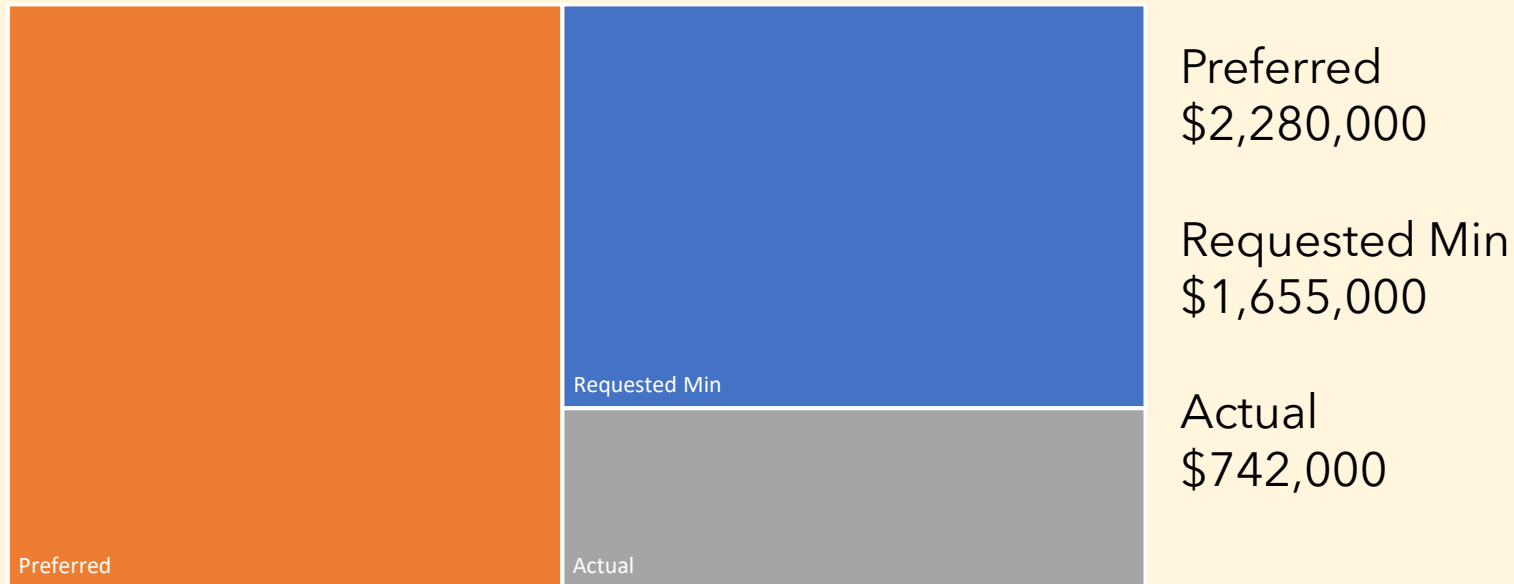
What's Next? Once you are ready to pursue a career goal, the next step is to build the training and education path to achieve success in that career. Ask yourself these questions:

- What skills do you need for the careers I'm interested in?
- How will you acquire the skills I need?
- Who can help you learn more?
- Is college required for the path I want? Explore financial aid options including completing the FAFSA and learn about the North Star Promise (NSP) Scholarship program.



25-27 LYFT Career Pathways Budget

25-27 LYFT Career Pathways Budget



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, Communications/Awareness

Future Discussion...

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



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?

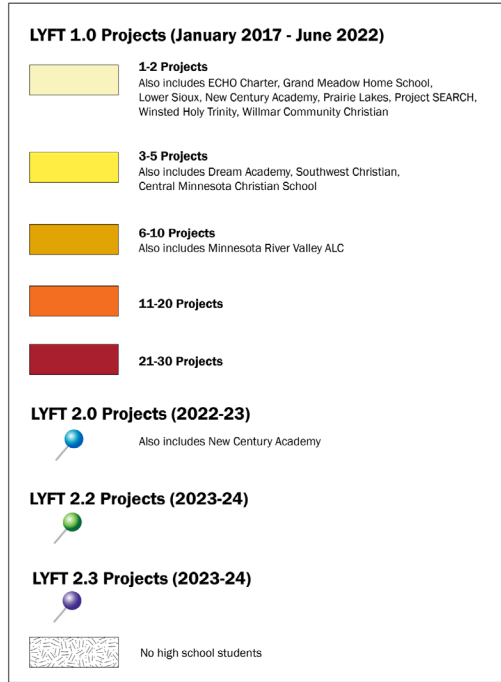
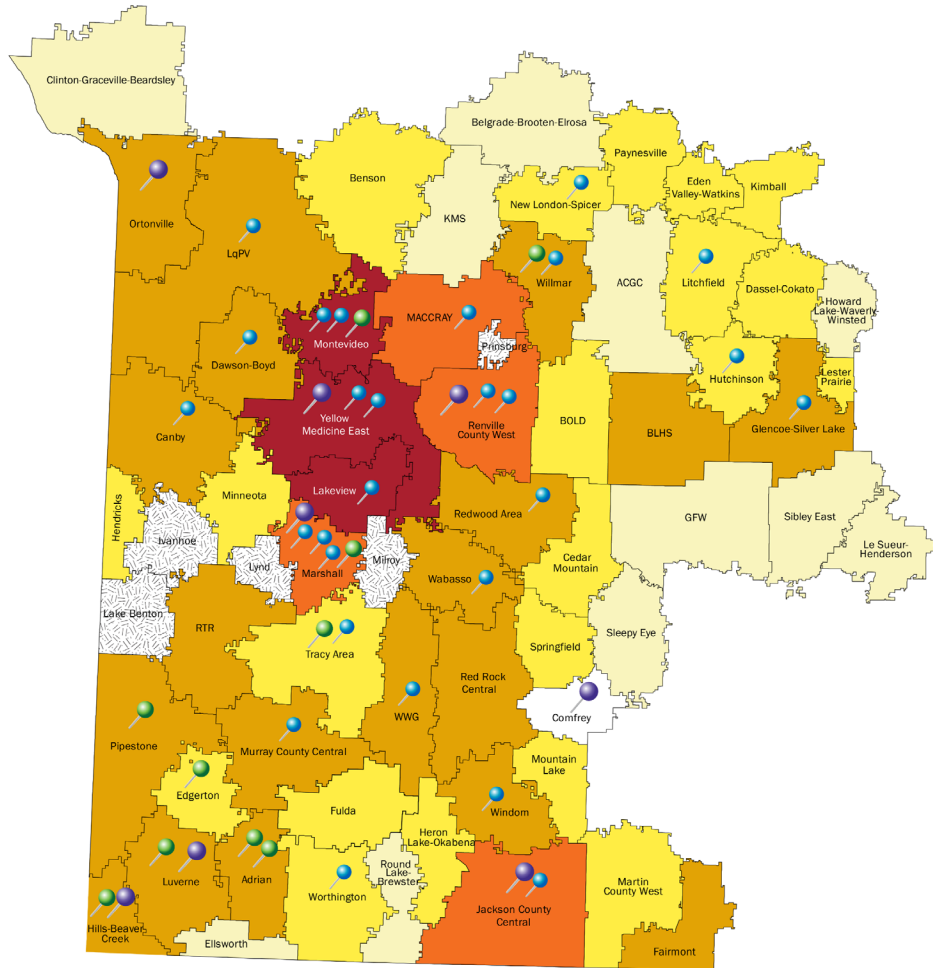
- Focused attention and resources for public relations/outreach
- Intentional funding strategies
- More career navigators/coordinators

Are these the right priorities? YES

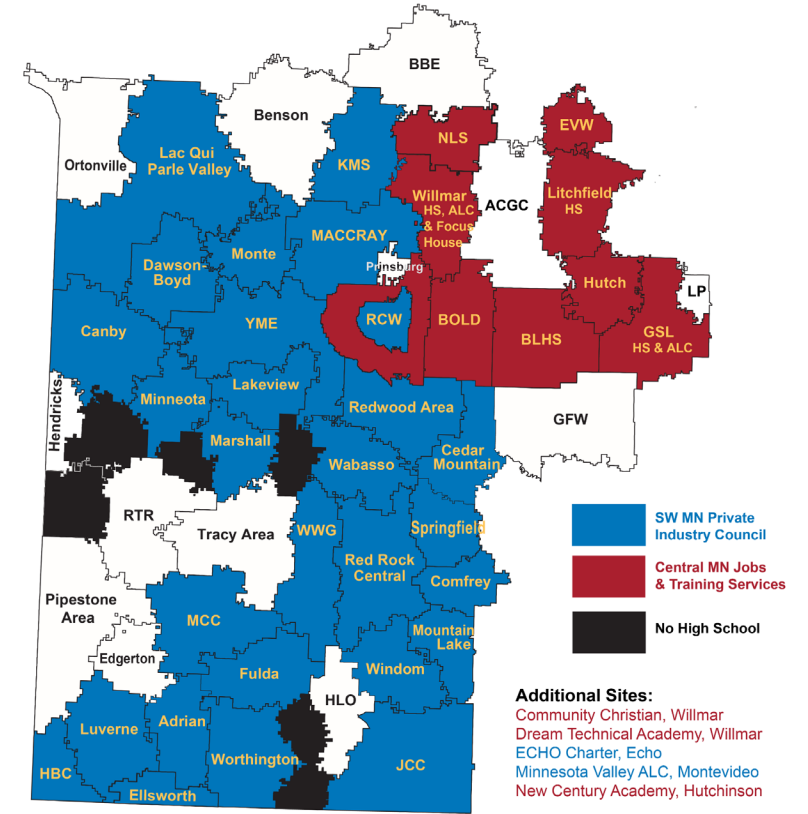
What might need adjustment or more intentional focus?

- 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

Identifying Gaps in Services and Support



Career Connected Learning



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

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

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!***



Follow Along
@LYFTPPathways



Don't forget to
Like, Follow,
Comment, and
Share!



THANK YOU!

LEARN MORE about LYFT Career Pathways or CONTACT US:



www.lyftpathways.org



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