



Launch Your Future Today

Advisory Committee Meeting

April 23rd, 2026

PRESENTATION

Wicoicage Oti, Lower Sioux Indian Community, 39527 Reservation

Hwy 1, Morton, MN

Career & Technical Education (CTE)
Career Connected Learning (CCL)

LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

- 9:00 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:10 Learning from the Field -
 Cansaya pi Wicoicage Oti
 helps students pursue a career they love.
- 9:55 LYFT & MSC Updates
- 10:20 Student/Educator Survey Data Share (Luke/Eriann)
- 10:50 World Cafe- Informing the Future
- 12:00 Lunch/Optional Networking



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	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

LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 Learning from the Field -
Cansaya pi Wicoicage Oti
helps students pursue a career they love.
- 9:55 LYFT & MSC Updates
- 10:20 Student/Educator Survey Data Share (Luke/Eriann)
- 10:50 World Cafe- Informing the Future
- 12:00 Lunch/Optional Networking



Learning From the Field



**Minnesota West
Community &
Technical College**



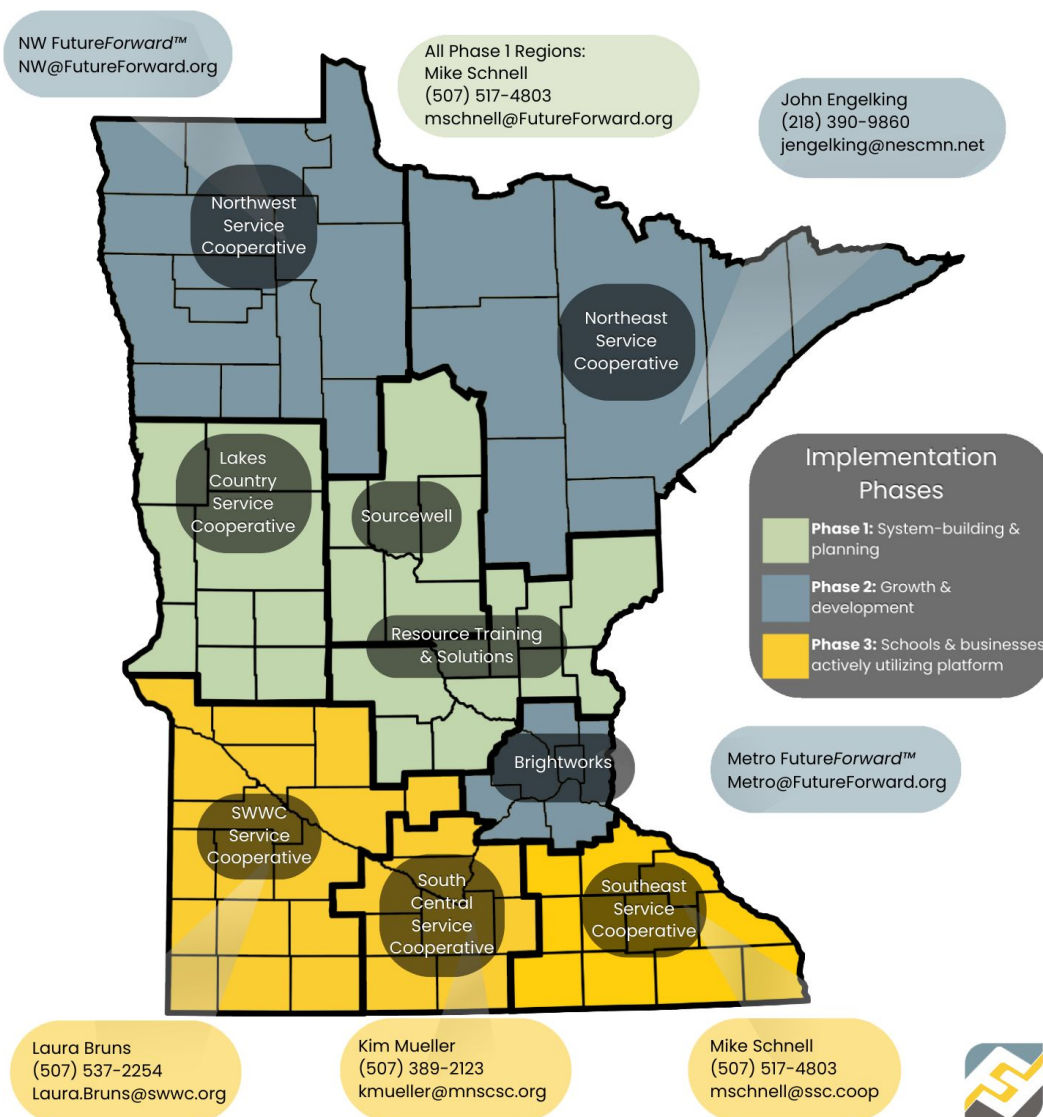
LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 Learning from the Field -
Cansaya pi Wicoicage Oti
helps students pursue a career they love.
- 9:55 **LYFT & MSC Updates**
- 10:20 Student/Educator Survey Data Share (Luke/Eriann)
- 10:50 World Cafe- Informing the Future
- 12:00 Lunch/Optional Networking



UPDATES





LYFT 3E's Roadmap

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 Pathways IMPACT GRANTS



Tracy Area High School Project

Tracy Area High School students turned classroom learning into real-world experience through the 122 2nd Street East House Project, a hands-on home build.

Supported by \$25,000 in LYFT Impact Grant Funding and more than \$250,000 in local contributions.



Jackson County Central Middle School

JCC Middle School's new Middle School CTE Program is giving students hands-on experience in virtual welding, electrical wiring, and measurement fundamentals. More than 150 students explored real-world skills and discovered local career opportunities in the trades.

Supported by \$21,800 in LYFT Career Pathways Impact Grant and Kozy Heat Manufacturing.



Willmar Senior High School

Willmar Senior High School students are gaining hands-on training and real clinical experience through the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program.

Supported by \$18,661 in LYFT Impact Grant Funding and Ridgewater College.



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 or
Bruce Bergeson bbergeson@mrved.net to
recommend students or get your school started.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SCAN QR CODE to discover more!



LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 Learning from the Field -
Cansaya pi Wicoicage Oti
helps students pursue a career they love.
- 9:55 LYFT & MSC Updates
- 10:20 **Student/Educator Survey Data Share (Luke/Eriann)**
- 10:50 World Cafe- Informing the Future
- 12:00 Lunch/Optional Networking





Launch Your Future Today

Student Survey Data Share

Luke Greniner, Labor Market Analyst, MN DEED





CAREER PATHWAYS

Launch Your Future Today

Sticking Points- Educator Data

What We Heard: Sticking Points

What types of CTE courses or Career Connected Learning experiences would you like to develop or offer if there were no barriers?

Hands-on, real-world learning experiences

- Student-run businesses (e.g., school stores) where students manage marketing, finances, inventory, and leadership.
- Learning by doing rather than traditional classroom-only instruction.

Expanded career certifications and pathways

- CNA, Cosmetology, CDL, Welding certification.
- Skilled trades pathways such as Building Construction, Plumbing, and Electrician apprenticeships.

Industry-specific career exposure

- Veterinary career pathways through engagement with veterinary professionals.

More in-person CTE/FCS offerings

- Increased availability of in-person Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes (Food & Nutrition, Child Development, Clothing).
- Reduced reliance on online-only courses, which are less appealing to students.

Flexible, inclusive work-based learning

- Internship-style opportunities with local businesses that accommodate transportation and scheduling challenges.
- Broader access so all students can participate, not just those with fewer barriers.

Clearer career pathways and confidence-building

- Programs designed to help students gain confidence, practical skills, and clearer connections to future careers.

What We Heard: Sticking Points

What are the sticking points (barriers/challenges) that currently prevent you from offering these opportunities

Staffing and licensure challenges

- Lack of licensed instructors (e.g., CNA, Cosmetology, FACS).
- Limited staff capacity to supervise and manage hands-on or work-based programs.

Funding and cost constraints

- Insufficient funding for inventory, equipment, facilities, technology, and program start-up costs.
- High costs associated with certifications and skilled trades programs.

Facilities and materials limitations

- Inadequate or overbooked spaces (e.g., kitchens already at capacity).
- Lack of equipment such as sewing machines or child development materials.

Industry partner availability

- Difficulty finding enough industry representatives or business partners.
- Limited access to employers willing or able to host internships or apprenticeships.

Time and scheduling constraints

- Hands-on programs require significant coordination, planning time, and supervision.
- Conflicts with existing schedules for both staff and students.

LYFT Pathways Advisory Agenda/Objectives

- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:10 Learning from the Field -
Cansaya pi Wicoicage Oti
helps students pursue a career they love.
- 9:55 LYFT & MSC Updates
- 10:20 Student/Educator Survey Data Share (Luke/Eriann)
- 10:50 **World Cafe- Informing the Future**
- 12:00 Lunch/Optional Networking





Launch Your Future Today

World Cafe

Data Questions

Informing the Future: Key Questions

Key Questions

- 1) Where do we see the strongest alignment between what students are saying they are interested in and experiencing versus what educators want to offer; and what our region needs (labor market demand)*
- 2) Where do we see the and biggest gaps between what students are saying they are interested in and experiencing versus what educators want to offer; and what our region needs (labor market demand)*
- 3) Looking at the barriers educators named, what are the most practical, doable ways to reduce those and where could LYFT Pathways play a meaningful role?*
- 4) What don't we understand yet that would help us better support students and educators and what should we ask differently next time? (relates to future surveys we might conduct)*
- 5) Review and React to Luke's Current Student Survey*

Partner Reflections



- *2 Insights/Takeaways*
- *1 “This matters because”*
- *1 potential action or implication*

Where should LYFT Career Pathways focus?

How can LYFT Career Pathways play a meaningful role?



Follow Along
@LYFTPathways



like



comment



share



save



THANK YOU!

LEARN MORE about LYFT Career Pathways or CONTACT US:



www.lyftpathways.org



@LYFTPathways



@LYFTPathways



(507) 537-2271



lyft@swwc.org

