TEACHING TODAY MN™
MINNESOTA'S K–12 EDUCATION CONNECTION
Fall 2020, Volume 1

# Wayzata CTE Coordinator is ACTE National Award Finalist

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced Jean Rakun, Career and Technical Education (CTE)/Perkins Coordinator and Hennepin West Perkins Consortium Secondary Director at Wayzata Public Schools Plymouth, Minnesota, as the 2020 ACTE Region III Administrator of the Year. This award recognizes administrative CTE professionals at the school, district, county, state, or federal level who have demonstrated leadership in ensuring teacher and student success and have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective CTE programs.

Jean Rakun currently serves as the Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Perkins Coordinator for Wayzata Public Schools in Wayzata, Minnesota. Rakun is also the secondary Perkins leader for the Hennepin West Perkins Consortium – a partnership of eleven high schools and two community/technical colleges. For the past twelve years, she has provided direct support to district and consortium secondary CTE teachers and their programs and activities. Her charge is creating innovative opportunities and access to high wage, in-demand career pathways for over 14,000 high school CTE students. Rakun has been an active member of ACTE for fifteen years.

Rakun is one of five finalists for the 2021 national title. The national winner will be announced at the ACTE Awards Gala, an award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event will take place on Thursday, December 3, during ACTE's Virtual CareerTech VISION 2020. The Virtual Awards Gala is sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, Goodheart-Willcox, CareerSafe, and Stratasys. For more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, visit our webpage.

## About ACTE

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

**www.wayzataschools.org**
**(763) 745-5000**

# Echo Park Elementary's Qorsho Hassan is Teacher of the Year

Qorsho Hassan, a fourth-grade teacher at Echo Park Elementary in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan school district, is the 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Hassan is the 56th recipient of the prestigious award, and the second from Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools. An independent selection committee representing Minnesota leaders in education, business and government chooses the Minnesota Teacher of the Year from individuals who are nominated and who then choose to become a candidate.

Read More, Page 19

# Central Middle School's Ashley Farrington is National Outstanding Assistant Principal

Ashley Farrington, Wayzata Public Schools assistant principal of Wayzata Central Middle School in Plymouth and a member of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), is Minnesota's 2020 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal. MESPA and NAESP present this prestigious annual award.

Read More, Page 22

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## In this Issue

The Bemidji Career Academies Mechatronics Manufacturing Journey ..... Page 5
Saints Manufacturing Program Partners with MnDOT ..... Page 7
Fab Labs at Apple Valley Middle School and High School ..... Page 9
Seventeen Partnerships to Receive Youth Skills Training Grants ..... Page 11
Career Pathways Program at White Bear Lake Area School District ..... Page 13
Grants ..... Page 16
Eight Minnesota Schools Receive National Blue Ribbon School Recognition ..... Page 17
Student Contests and Awards ..... Page 18
Qorsho Hassan is 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year ..... Page 19
134 Teachers are Candidates for 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year ..... Page 21
Ashley Farrington, Wayzata Central Middle School, Selected as MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal ..... Page 22

**Join the STEM Movement.**
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**Whoever you are.**

**eCYBERMISSION** is a web-based STEM competition for students in grades 6-9 sponsored by the **U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program**.

**Registration is now open!** Visit **ecybermission.com** to register. Complete your teams by November 11th and your students will receive a FREE STEM Kit.

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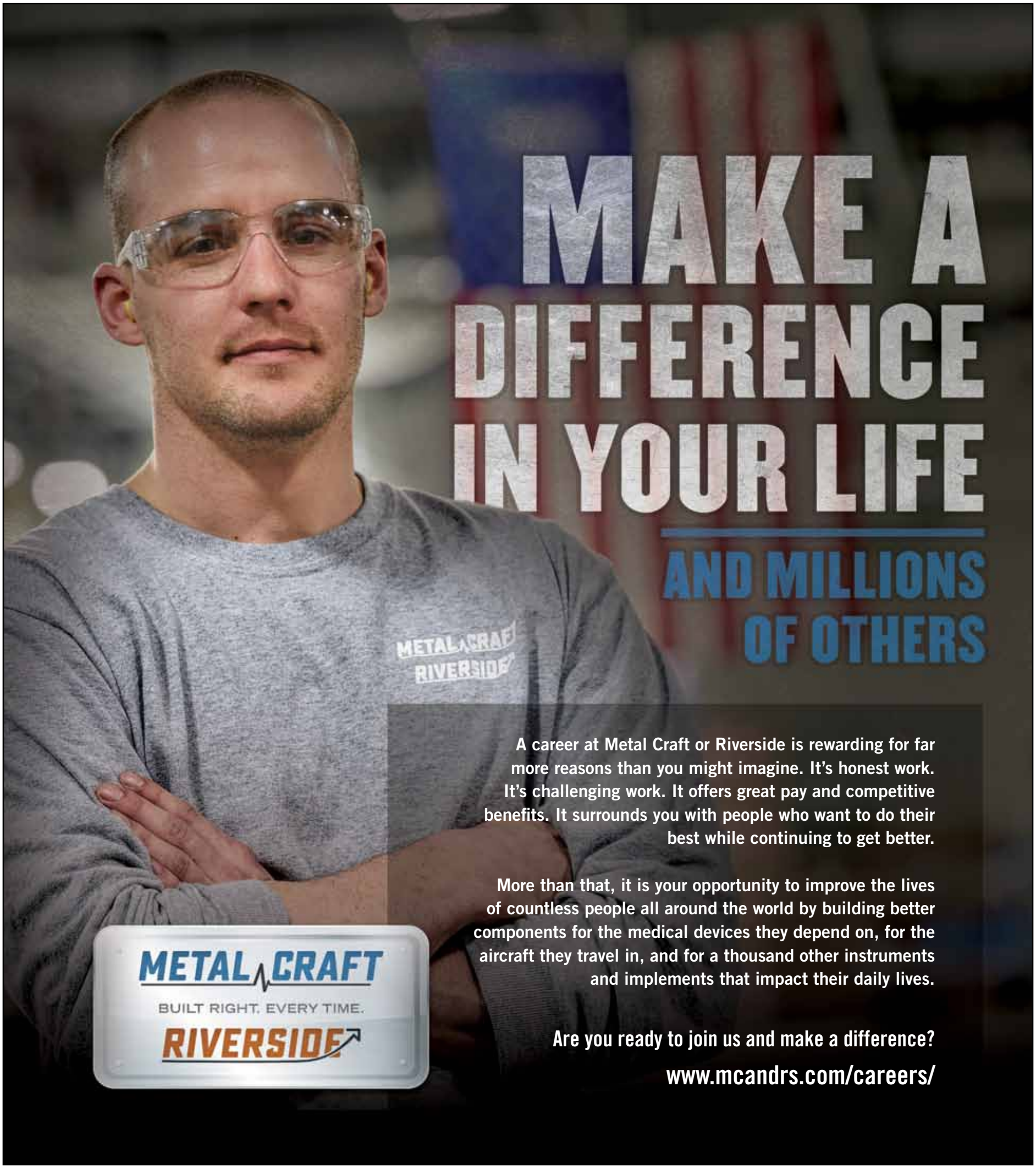
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# Our Successful Bemidji Career Academies Mechatronics Manufacturing Journey!

*Brian Stefanich*
*Solway Elementary Principal*
*Bemidji Career Academies Director*

In the Fall of 2014, we partnered with Bemidji's Idea Circle / (MI2) Minnesota Innovation Initiative. Our Greater Bemidji manufacturing companies approached us and asked what we could do for them to create a pipeline of young qualified workers to work for them as they all had workforce shortages. This meeting led to an amazing partnership with MI2, Bemidji High School and our community's business & industry partners. MI2's approach is innovative in that their courses and programs are designed by industry, yet each individual's program experience is tailored to help them succeed. The partnership with MI2 opened doors for the Career Academies to quickly gain support and financial sponsorships from nearly 50 business & industry partners in Bemidji, Minnesota. As an example, Bemidji Steel Company plans to expand their company & grow their business in the next few years. They have partnered with MI2 offering & plan to offer Mechatronics training at our training center for our Bemidji High School's Mechatronics Academy students.

We have also partnered with the Boy Scout's Exploring Program. Our goal is to have Exploring posts in each of our 15 career academies. The Exploring posts meet once a month on site at our companies to learn the skills and trades from the company employees! This gives our student's real world, hands on experience to explore careers while in high school. We currently have posts operating in Manufacturing, Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Agriculture, HVAC, Plumbing & Heating, Business, Automotive Technology & Health Careers. The exploring posts give our students the opportunity to learn from our professionals in each career pathway. Our business and industry partners are building relationships with our students which will eventually lead to a pipeline of young, passionate qualified workers ready to work for them. The last four employees hired at Bemidji Steel Company within the last six months are our Mechatronics Career Academy graduates!

We were fortunate to be awarded the Minnesota Department of Labor Youth Skills Training $90,000 grant this past spring. This is a two year grant giving our 16 & 17 year old students an opportunity to receive paid internships in five career fields; Manufacturing, Automotive Technology, IT, Agriculture & Health Careers. We are currently working with our partners to go through the process of becoming safety certified to offer these exciting opportunities for our high school students.

With our real world Exploring Posts and our YST program, we have all the ingredients to train and retain our young talent through mentorship, training, & building relationships which will foster our community's economic development for years to come. Truly a Win-Win for all stakeholders in Bemidji!

**bemidji.k12.mn.us/bhs**
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*"Mechatronics has provided me with a solid understanding of how systems work, this has helped me in my current job at Bemidji Steel Company. I look to apply more of what I learned as the company adds equipment like the new Fiber Laser Cutter in the future. Since April 2020, I've been working full time at Bemidji Steel Company as one of the operators for our new Multi Million Dollar Fiber Laser. Hands on learning at work has been more beneficial to me than sitting in a traditional classroom. Hands on learning Is how I learn best, not from a textbook. It is exciting to see that the things I learned in FIRST Robotics and mechatronics are going to payoff once I graduate from high school. Mechatronics and Robotics have been very beneficial to me."*

*Jake Slough (above right),*
*2020 BHS Graduate &*
*Mechatronics Academy Student*

## Invested in the Future — Make the Future Happen

*"Bemidji Steel Company believes in paying it forward to the next generation, in partnership with Bemidji High School and the Minnesota Innovation Initiative, we provide work experiences and jobs for the next generation of leaders.*

*"The Minnesota Innovation Initiative (MI2) and The Bemidji Career Academies have done an exceptional job in preparing students for the world beyond High School. It is truly a unique partnership between education and industry that is not found anywhere else. Through this program, we have had a chance to work with students as they choose their career path and we are proud to be part of their journey. It has allowed these students to gain valuable work experience and industry connections as they decide what comes next, whether that is to continue to work with Bemidji Steel Company (BSC) and into a career that involves on the job training with technical skills, or work part time with BSC and continue on for a four year degree and further their influence within the organization. I feel that this will not only provide a huge benefit to the student, but also impact the community by retaining talent in the company by bringing in new ideas and perpetual stream of high-quality job candidates as BSC continues to grow and evolve."*

*Alex Grasdalen, Chief Operations Officer, Bemidji Steel Company, INC.*

# SAY *YES* TO A CAREER IN MANUFACTURING

***EVERYTHING*** **we have,** ***EVERYTHING*** **we use,** ***EVERYTHING*** **we see, taste, hear, smell, feel, or rely on for our way of life, and our very existence, at this moment in human history, has been made possible by** ***MACHINISTS and ENGINEERS*****.**

## *MANUFACTURING* is *EVERYWHERE!*

- **Medical:** Bandages, needles & pain medicine.
- **Computers/IT:** Flash drives, laptops & mobile devices.
- **Furniture:** Beds, chairs, stools & outdoor furniture.
- **Construction:** Beams, shingles, screws & nails.
- **Food:** Frosted donuts, canned veggies, licorice & cereals.
- **Textiles/Clothing:** Socks, shoes, shirts sunglasses & jewelry.
- **Automotive:** Car frames, engines, horns, gas caps & cup holders.
- **Aerospace:** Airplanes, helicopters, & space capsules.
- **Household:** Lamps, microwaves, toothbrushes & refrigerators.

**See this cell phone?**
***EVERY part of it, including the battery, is MANUFACTURED!***

## JOBS IN MANUFACTURING

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- Assembler
- Fabricator
- Welder
- Cutter
- Operations Manager
- Engineer
- Buyer or Purchasing Manager
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# Saints Manufacturing Program In Partnership with MnDOT

*Kathleen Miller, Communications*
*St. Francis Area Schools*

In the St. Francis High School course catalog under Technology Education, students are offered a variety of courses in construction, auto mechanics, drafting, engineering and manufacturing. One course in particular, Saints Manufacturing, offers students hands-on learning in the metals lab. This full-year course introduces students to the machining industry, from estimating projects to the designing of parts on CAD/CAM software, from precision measurement, grinding and welding to machining parts — basically running a business.

So when the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) was in need of finding a metal fabrication vendor in the summer of 2018 to work on parts for snow plows, lighting and other projects, Saints Manufacturing instructor Erik Trost asked if his students could have a chance to bid for the work.

A unique partnership was formed and continues today. These juniors and seniors prepare estimates, submit bids and create schedules for completion of manufactured parts for MnDOT. Computer-aided design, drafting and manufacturing software (CAD/CAM) is used to design parts which are then machined. Parts are assembled and finished and ready for delivery to MnDOT. Currently students are working on an arm for the side plow on the snow plows.

Brian McDonald, transportation material supervisor for MnDOT, said that manufactured parts from St. Francis High School are made with precision, which helps keep snow plows in operation. "It's a benefit to MnDOT and to the students, who are gaining real-world experience," said McDonald.

"It's fun to watch students work from a print, with certain specifications and tolerances, to build an actual part for a real customer. These students are doing an amazing job this year," added Trost.

The bond referendum that was passed by voters in November 2017 provided for an expansion for the metals lab at the high school. The additional space is much appreciated. Soon to be up and running is a paint booth, which will allow students to complete one more step in the manufacturing of some parts.

Future plans for Saints Manufacturing? "Our partnership with MnDOT and the publicity we have received, will hopefully create other learning opportunities for our students. Currently we are working on a partnership with Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department for some of their metal fabrication needs," said Trost.

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# WHY Manufacturing Careers — Didn't COVID kill them?

*Hope Riska, Productivity Inc*

*Absolutely not!* That's a question I sometimes get asked. COVID-19 has certainly not been a "friend," but I hear from companies that they are *still* looking for good people and Manufacturing is *not* dead! In fact, Medical, Automotive and Robotics/Automation are all gaining the need for skilled people.

Why *not* a career in Manufacturing? It's not your Grandfather's Machine Shop anymore! Did you know most manufacturing companies are so clean you could (nearly) eat off the floor? With Minnesota and the Midwest being predominantly Medical Device manufacturing, every day we have an opportunity to make a difference in so many aspects of our daily lives. Sure, there are some really cool medical devices like pacemakers, bone screws, etc., but what about things we use all of the time – simple as your toothbrush, eyeglasses, electronics, food packaging and more!

PARENTS: Have you ever asked your kids, "What do you *love* to do? What is your passion? Do you like to work with your hands? Your mind? If there is one thing you could *fix* in this world, what would it be and how would you do it?" Too often we don't think about what our kids want to do, but rather what do *we* think they would enjoy or should do?

Last time I challenged you with this question: "Do you know what companies are in your own back yard?" Think about it. How many times have you driven past the company around the corner and wondered, "what do they do there?" Did you know that we have *all* of these wonderful resource tools — internet, phones and even non-electronic devices like our hands to find out — knock on the door and ask, "what do you do here?" Make a field trip out of it with your kids to check it out! With COVID, of course it's not so easy to go tour companies, but thanks to this wonderful thing called Google to research a company to see who they are and what they do . . . many have videos touring their facilities or what they do. There's also this old-fashioned device called a "phone" — some are even *smarter* than the old ones . . . call up your local businesses and ask them questions about what they do and what they look for in their employees.

Do you work for a manufacturing company or in the industry? Have you shared what you do with your kids? I don't mean the High School kids, but the younger ones . . . middle school or younger . . . if you enjoy what you do, *show it!* Too often we don't even think about doing our own "Show and Tell" so our own career pathways get lost in translation — too many kids are being told, "college is a 4-year degree" — but *college* can be a Certificate *or* a Diploma, a 2-year Degree *or* a 4-year Degree.

Here's a few facts: For 2-year Degree (Tech College) graduates, average starting salary for a CNC Machinist in Minneapolis-St. Paul area is $47,632; average salary for a CNC Programmer (again, 2-year Tech College degree) is $58,000.

Alexandria Technical and Community College student Courtney Templin #girlslikesparksandsparkles

Average annual *cost* for Community and Technical 2-year degree program is $3,347/year, compared to the average cost of a 4-year program at $9,139/year.

Many companies will help pay for their education, and most students have a job lined up before they even graduate from their 2-year program.

COVID may have changed the way we do things right now, but it hasn't changed the *passion* for all of us to explore what we (and our kids) want to do with our/their lives. There are many online programs to get you started.

With the way the country and society are these days, it's up to US to help guide the way . . . don't leave it up to others to shape the future of our kids (or anything for that matter). I once heard a wise person say, "If it is to *be*, it is up to *me!*" Actually . . . it's up to us all! What are *you* waiting for?

*Photo credit: Alexandria Technical and Community College, Alexandria, MN*

# BTD Manufacturing Becomes PIPELINE Dual-Training Employer

BTD Manufacturing, a custom metal fabrication manufacturer, has been named a dual-training employer by Minnesota's Private Investment, Public Education, Labor and Industry Experience Program, or PIPELINE. The dual-training program pairs a classroom-style curriculum with structured on-the-job learning to give employees an accelerated path to certification in a variety of areas, including welding, CNC and quality.

"This is a great way for us to continue to invest in our Minnesota residents and the talent we already have here at BTD," said Al Carlson, BTD vice president of HR, Talent Management and Leadership Development. "We want to provide our people with a solid career path, not just a place to work."

The PIPELINE Program awards businesses in the state grants to train and certify employees with skills that would otherwise take months to achieve. Sixteen BTD employees at the Detroit Lakes and Lakeville locations have participated in the dual-training program since its start in October. The employees contributed 80 hours over two weeks in both classroom and hands-on training on-site to earn their American Society of Welders certification. The employees are able to put their new skills to work right away and ensure the quality of BTD products continues to meet the highest standards.

"Many of our customers are training and certifying their employees with the same credentials," said BTD president, Paul Gintner. "This is just one more way we can align with our client's expectations to continue to provide high-quality metalwork."

The PIPELINE Program works alongside many of BTD's existing employee enrichment initiatives and programs, including BTD University, the company's online learning portal. The portal is used in conjunction with Tooling U-SME, a web-based learning resource for manufacturing roles. The online tools, which are geared specifically to metal fabrication, are a convenient way for operators to develop their skills on specific equipment regardless of the time of day or location.

"Our goal is to get our employees thinking long term and how all the resources can help them determine where they want to go next and what their future holds," Carlson said. "It benefits employees, customers and the company as a whole."

BTD has implemented the PIPELINE Dual-Training Program at its two Minnesota locations and looks forward to implementing a similar program at its Illinois and Georgia locations.

Named 3rd on The Fabricator's FAB 40 list in 2019, BTD continues to invest in people, processes, and technology to provide first-class service to world-class brands while valuing their team members and the communities in which they live. Their success shows in more than 1,300 employees who work in BTD locations in Detroit Lakes, Minn., Lakeville, Minn., Dawsonville, Ga., Buford, Ga., and Washington, Ill.

BTD is grateful that local high schools and community colleges are looking at the manufacturing industry differently. "We are going to need a pipeline of young talent to fill current staffing needs and prepare for a wave of Baby Boomer retirements," says Paul Gintner President of BTD Manufacturing. It is imperative that we dispel student's misconceptions about the industry and peak their interest before they select other avenues or head to four-year colleges, a costly career investment that is not necessarily the right option for all graduates. "We need a group of curious young students who will continue to transform the manufacturing industry," states Gintner.

BTD has developed relationships with local high schools close to their MN facilities in Lakeville and Detroit Lakes. These relationships help expose students to the manufacturing industry and allow them to explore the career opportunities that exist right in their own backyards. "We are thrilled to have such robust relationships with local high schools, we know that the connections built with students now will pay off in the future," says Gintner.

# Fab Labs at Apple Valley Middle School and High School

It wasn't too long ago that the concept of "shop class" conjured up images of well-worn woodworking equipment, metal-working equioment, and hand tools. Stepping into a modern school "shop" may still come as a surprise to many. Through partnerships with local manufacturers and grant programs, middle and high schools today have transformed the old notion of "shop" into modern, high-tech fabrication labs.

"Fab Labs" are springing up across the country as innovations allow students to get hand-ons introductions into modern fabrication techniques and learn skills that will follow them long after graduation from high school.

## Apple Valley High School

Apple Valley High School's innovative Fab Lab was launched back in 2014 thanks to receiving nearly $3 million through a federal YouthConnect grant from the U.S. departments of education and labor. Through partnerships with businesses and colleges, the program has expanded students' opportunities for hands-on learning and exposure to career pathways in STEM-related fields. Students are able to earn college credits in some of their coursework and experience real-world learning through internships with business partners.

The layout of the AVHS Fab Lab was actually designed by the students themselves, and much of the furniture was designed and manfactured right in the lab. In this way, the lab actually becomes a cost-saving measure for the school. Why purchase furniture when the students can manufacture it right at school?

The AVHS Fab Lab is also made available for community use, with community education classes and various school age summer camps offered through the school. The lab is financially and conceptually supported by 15 different local businesses, and the grant supported the establishment of the E3 STEM program, focusing on exploration, education and employment. Through partnerships with businesses and colleges, the program has expanded students' opportunities for hands-on learning and exposure to career pathways in STEM-related fields. Students are able to earn college credits in some of their coursework and experience real-world learning through internships with business partners.

The AVHS Fab Lab includes the capabilities to do 3D printing, CNC-milling, circuit production, laser precision milling, and vinyl cutting. In 2019, Apple Valley High School received the 2019 STEM Excellence Award in the high school category at the national Future of Education Technology Conference in Orlando.

## Apple Valley Middle School

Valley Middle School of STEM was the first middle school in Minnesota to implement

**Continued on Page 11**

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# Seventeen Partnerships to Receive Youth Skills Training Grants

Seventeen partnerships will receive and split $1.5 million in Youth Skills Training (YST) grants to develop and implement paid-learning opportunities for students 16 years of age and older.

"Youth Skills Training grants provide students with hands-on workforce training in high-demand, high-growth fields," said Gov. Tim Walz. "Employers across the state are facing workforce shortages, and these innovative partnerships connect schools with local business to create career pathways for younger Minnesotans."

The grants are part of a Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (YST@DLI) program, which was signed into law in 2017 with bipartisan support, to create and provide employment training for student learners ages 16 and older in high-growth, high-demand occupations.

"These grants allow high schools, businesses and community organizations to work together to train students and create skilled workers for their communities," said Nancy Leppink, DLI commissioner.

YST@DLI grants will be awarded to the following partnerships, who represent over 50 school districts and more than 100 employer partners in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, automotive, health care and information technology.

- Bemidji Career Academies
- Bloomington Public Schools
- Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public Schools
- Detroit Lakes Public Schools
- Elk River Area Schools
- Faribault Public Schools
- Forest Lake Area Schools
- Genesys Works Twin Cities, St. Paul
- Goodwill Industries, St. Paul
- Lakeville Area Schools
- Monticello Public Schools
- North Branch Area Public Schools
- Princeton Public Schools
- Ramsey County Workforce Solutions
- Red Wing Ignite
- South West Metro Intermediate District, Shakopee
- Spark-Y, Minneapolis

Grants can be used to create programs, recruit students and employers, provide training, transport students and pay for student certifications.

Twenty-five local partnerships throughout the state applied for this third round of grants. These partnerships involve more than 75 school districts and more than 130 employers in five different industries. A fourth round of grant applications will open in fall 2020.

## About YST@DLI

The YST@DLI program develops partnerships between schools, employers and community organizations to provide safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experience to students 16 and older. These locally developed partnerships provide exposure to industry, related classroom instruction, safety training, industry-recognized credentials and paid work experience.

For more information about the Youth Skills Training Program or grant opportunities, contact Rich Wessels at 651-284-5184 or yst.dli@state.mn.us.

# Apple Valley Fab Labs

**Continued from Page 9**

a Fab Lab, bringing career and skills focus to even younger studens. Valley Middle School's Fab Lab was established in 2014 with the financial assitance of BDT, a Lakeville-based metal manufacturer.

One unique aspect of the VMSS Fab Lab is the collaborative use of the lab in other subject areas, creating an authentic "real-world" experience for the students.

Science and math classes have made use of the push-in model. In science, students created biomimicry projects by utilizing 3D printing. They have also used the Fab Lab to enhance their unit on temperature through 3D printing, vacuum forming, and wax pouring to create candles. 8th grade geometry used the laser during one of their units to create a mini-golf course.

Social Studies classes have enhanced their "Apple Headquarters" assignment by having student teams make "merch" to promote their choice of city. They have also utilized the laser engraver to make dog tags for their World War II unit.

English classes 3D printed monuments representing an immigrant experience. They also used the various equipment to create a footprint or blueprint representing themselves.

Those are just a few examples of how core-content classes have utilized the Fab Labs. Valley Middle School of STEM strives to prepare students for an ever-changing technological landscape by exposing them to the latest software, equipment, and concepts.

*Portions of this article appeared in earlier issues of Teaching Today, MN. You can read back-issues of Teaching Today, MN at www.teachingtodaymn.com.*

www.district196.org
(651) 423-7700

# Youth Skills Training Grants

Youth Skills Training at the Department of Labor and Industry (YST@DLI) supports the development and implementation of paid work experiences for students 16 and older in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, automotive, health care and information technology.

### YST programs include:

- Partnerships between high schools, employers and community organizations
- Industry related classroom instruction
- Safety training and industry-recognized credentials
- High-growth, high-demand and living-wage industries
- Safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experience for high school students

### Grants available for local partnerships

A new round of grants will open soon. Grant funds can be used for marketing, recruitment, training, transportation, student certifications and personnel to manage a program. Grants cannot be used to pay student wages.

- Up to $1 million will be awarded through grants of up to $100,000.
- Grant money is used for the implementation and coordination of YST programs.
- A letter of intent must be submitted and approved prior to applying for a grant. Prospective applicants will be able to submit a letter of intent on the YST@DLI web page beginning Oct. 19, 2020.

### Grant timeline

- Oct. 19 to Nov. 4, 2020: Letters of Intent accepted
- Nov. 9 to Dec. 4, 2020: Grant applications accepted
- Feb. 24, 2020: Grant recipients announced
- July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023: Performance period ($1 million available)

**Questions about YST@DLI or grant funding?**

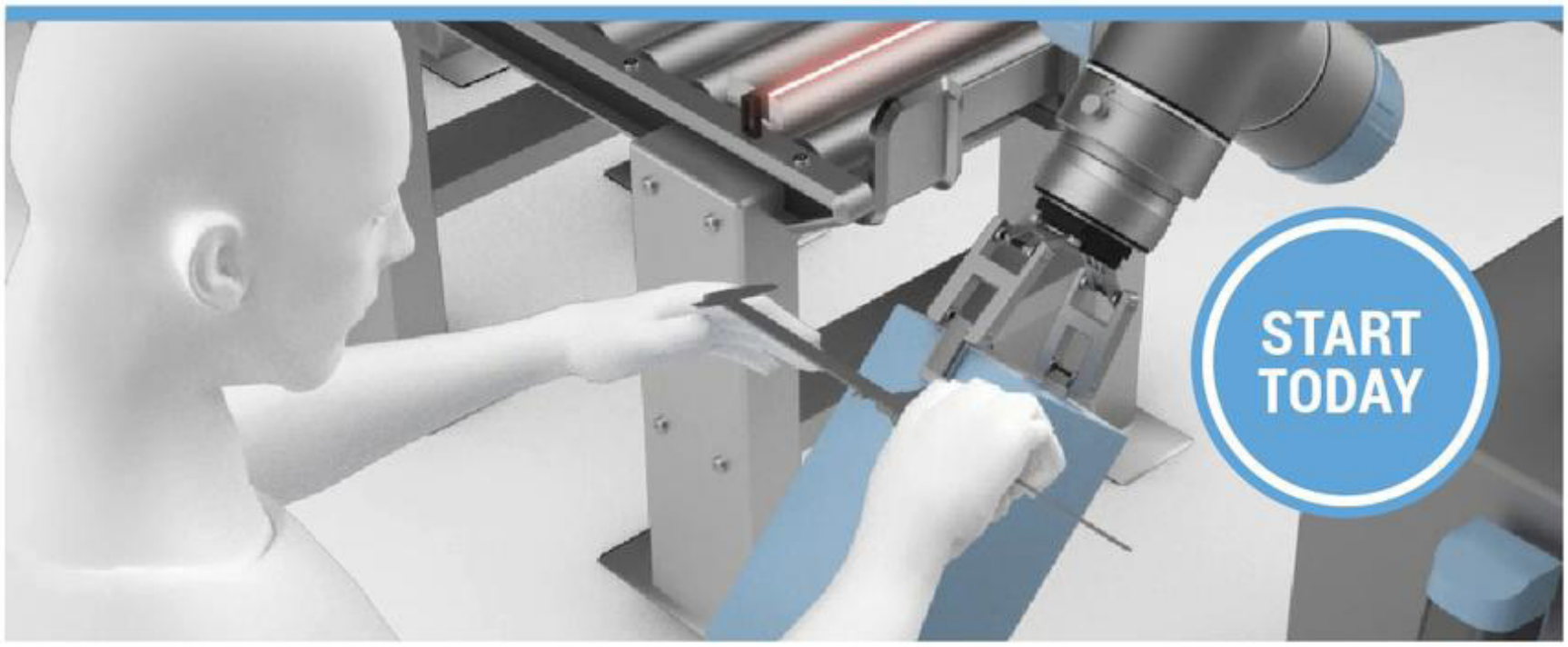
Rich Wessels, program manager, Rich.Wessels@state.mn.us, 651-284-5184

Katherine Fischenich, program specialist, Katherine.Fischenich@state.mn.us, 651-284-5341

**Website:** www.dli.mn.gov/yst

UNIVERSAL ROBOTS ACADEMY

UNIVERSAL ROBOTS




# Free, easy interactive training

**Join our free online academy** and learn to master collaborative robots today

## Become a robot programmer in 8 core modules

Universal Robots has developed online training modules to further lower the automation barrier.
The modules are offered free of charge, open to all, and built to deliver hands-on learning via interactive simulations.

The core modules teach all essential concepts, terminology and programming commands needed to operate a UR robot.
The 8 modules are a step-by-step simulation of setting up and programming a complete pick-and-place application.

### Core track

**Module 1** First look: The robot at a glance *(7 min)*

**Module 2** Preparing a robot task *(6 min)*

**Module 3** Setting up a tool *(17 min)*

**Module 4** Creating a program *(12 min)*

**Module 5** Interaction with external devices *(11 min)*

**Module 6** Controlling conveyors *(10 min)*

**Module 7** Safety settings *(15 min)*

**Module 8** Optimizing *(6 min)*

### Pro track

**Module 9** Program flow *(16 min)*

**Module 10** Feature coordinates *(13 min)*

**Module 11** Force control *(12 min)*

Contact us today for more information!

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# Career Pathways Program at White Bear Lake Area School District

*Jenny Moore, Career Pathways Navigator*
*Michael McGarthwaite,Work-Based Learning Coordinator and Career Navigator*
*White Bear Lake Area High School*

Where are we now? What began as a Manufacturing Career Pathway four years ago has now evolved into an all-encompassing Career Pathways program at White Bear Lake Area School (WBLAS) District 624. Learn more about how the community of White Bear Lake, MN is working together to shape the future.

Four years ago, WBLAS was fortunate to receive a Greater Twin Cities United Way grant that helped create the original WBLAS Career Pathway. Thanks to the work of faculty, staff, and dedicated industry partners, WBLAS Career Pathways now focuses on five industries: Construction, Healthcare, Information Technology, Manufacturing, and new this year, Automotive. All of these pathways are experiencing local, statewide, and national workforce shortages. Thus, WBLAS Career Pathways serves three key populations.

First, White Bear Lake Area High School (WBLAHS) students are priority number one. Career Navigators, Jenny Moore and Michael McGarthwaite, help students make informed decisions about their career choice and appropriately match post-secondary plans related to their interests and skills. Students have the opportunity to participate in listening sessions, job shadows, job site tours, and paid internships. Second, faculty and staff are able to focus on quality instruction and student relationships by receiving additional resources such as industry connections, teacher externships, and grant writing support. Finally, WBL Career Pathways creates and aligns educational opportunities based on the local community's workforce needs.

Through various grant opportunities, Career Pathways teachers are able to purchase a variety of industry relevant equipment and curriculum that deepens their classroom instruction. Teacher Externships allow teachers to work at a local employer for a week in the summer to learn more about the industry. The Manufacturing Lab has machines that include, but are not limited to: Haas and Tormach Mills, Bridgeports, Lasers, and 3D printers with the same or similar technology currently used in today's industry.

As the Manufacturing Career Pathway continues to evolve, the Gen Z Connections program is also evolving. For the first time this year, the program expanded to four new Automotive employers, becoming the first Youth Skills Training Automotive Program registered with MN Department of Labor & Industry (DLI). The program is a partnership between Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation (VHEDC), WBLAS, Ramsey County, MN DLI, and the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation. This year, three pods of four employers and four interns rotated through a paid, experiential opportunity. Students also received OSHA 10 Certification and soft skills training. Graduates of the program are learning industry related skills, filling vacant positions, and gaining knowledge beyond the classroom.

The Manufacturing Career Pathway starts with career exploration embedded in the classroom instruction. As WBLAS continues to pursue concurrent enrollment opportunities, additional experiences such as listening sessions, job shadows, job site tours, scholarships, and paid internships are offered to students in the related pathway. WBL Career Pathways also supports students' desires to be in a variety of elective courses. In an effort to close the opportunity gap, all students are encouraged to sign up to be a part of the program.

Furthermore, WBLAS Career Pathways looks forward to offering the annual WBLAS Career Pathways Expo on Wednesday, November 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. at WBLAHS — South Campus. Over 60+ employers will showcase and demo their company and industry, provide engaging listening sessions, and teach students about a variety of career paths. The annual event also includes the Transition Resource Fair and the Community Volunteer Fair. The public is welcome to attend from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information about the upcoming event, visit

**wblahs.isd624.org/academics/career-pathways.**

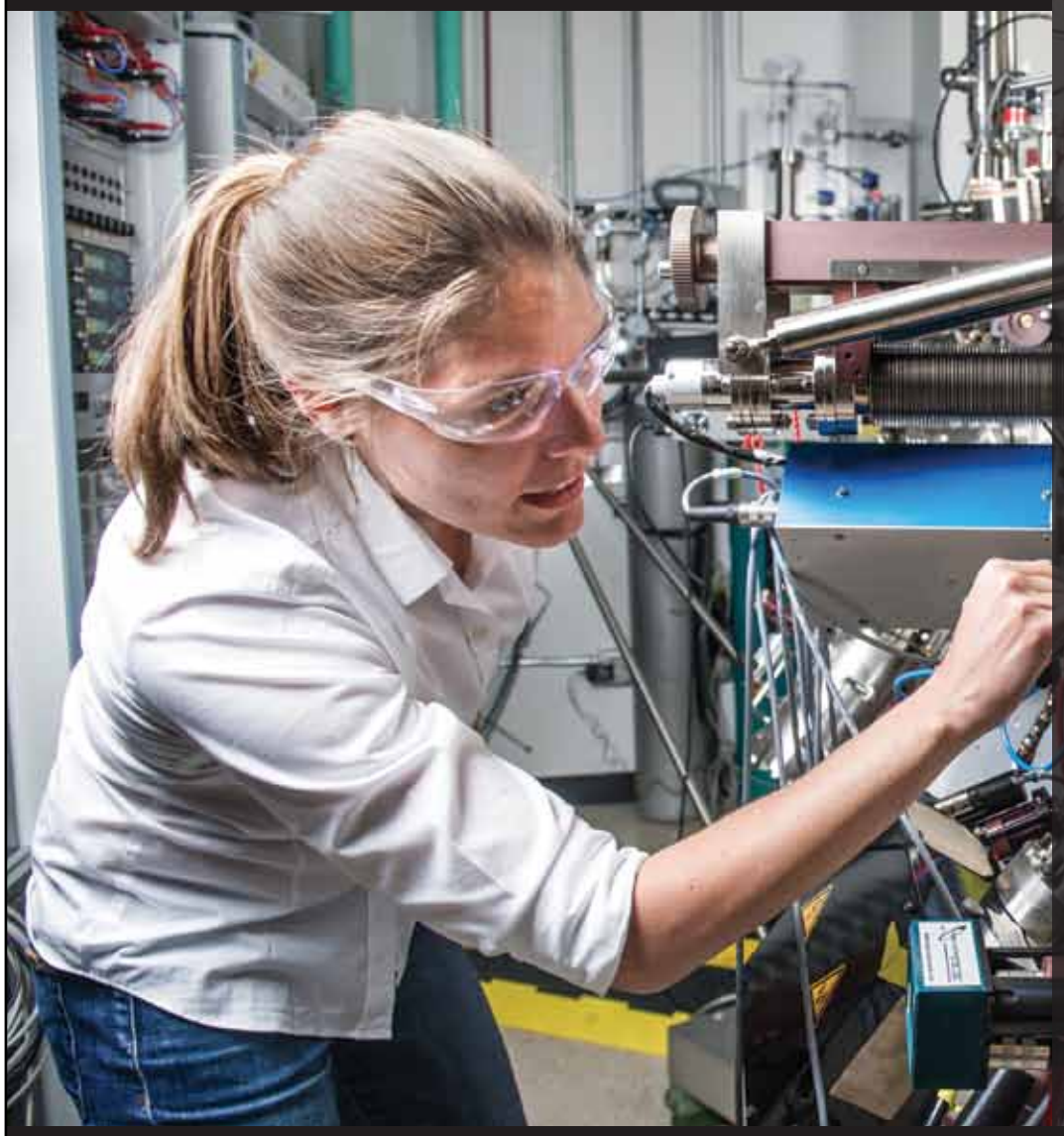
WBLAS Career Pathways and the Manufacturing Career Pathway continue to grow into a program for all students regardless of their academic ability. As industry partners continue to create and align educational opportunities with their workforce needs, students make more informed decisions about their career path and WBLAS employees work to understand the reality of the future workforce, the White Bear Lake community proves that *working together to shape the future* is possible.

**www.isd624.org**
**(651) 407-7500**

# Environmental and Technological Studies

St. Cloud State University

## UNLEASH*TOMORROW*



## *Bachelor of Science Degree*

- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Construction Management
- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Science

### Manufacturing Engineering Technology

- The Manufacturing Engineering Technology program is a Bachelor of Science Degree in an applied engineering field that looks for better ways to manufacture products. This includes reducing cycle times, maintaining quality, and keeping costs reasonable.
- The field emphasizes engineering problem solving using a hands-on approach rather than the complex analysis that an engineer would typically use. The curriculum focuses on hands-on experiences to prepare the graduate for an exciting career in the midst of production activity

### Technology Education

- Bachelor of Science Degree
- Master of Science Degree

### License Endorsements

- CTE —Career and Technical Education
  - Communications
  - Construction
  - Manufacturing
  - Transportation
- Work Based Learning

## *Outreach Activities:*

**Partnering with over 30 schools and businesses to serve over 10,000 K–12 students per year.**

- **Huskies Invent** — *A non-stop weekend "invent-a-thon" for collaboration with businesses and students.*
- **Husky Make It Space** — *Bring ideas to life, from design to the creation of visual models/ functional prototypes.*
- **Mobile Lab Program** — *A lending program that brings high-tech equipment to partnering K–12 schools.*
- **Mobile Make It Space** — *State-of-the-art instructional equipment available for SCSU students and K–12 partners.*

Contact: Kurt Helgeson — Department Chair
E-mail: krhelgeson@stcloudstate.edu
Phone: (320) 308-3127

Learn more about Environmental and Technological Studies at St. Cloud State University at:

**www.stcloudstate.edu/ets**

Minnesota State | *St. Cloud State University, A member of Minnesota State*

St. Cloud State University is committed to legal affirmative action, equal opportunity, access and diversity of its campus community. (http://scsu.mn/scsuoea)

# Meeting the Needs of K–12 and Business Partners

There are several programs and initiatives at St. Cloud State University that provide opportunity for the university to partner with K–12 schools and businesses. Specifically, we will highlight our outreach programs, license options for teachers and a new engineering program that we believe will be of interest to many students.

## Outreach

St. Cloud State University has developed extensive K–12 outreach program to support Technology & Engineering Education, CTE and STEM programs around the state. This has been by developing partnership with schools and companies.

The success of this program has generated ongoing requests for professional development, program review and development. Professional development opportunities tied to the outreach program available to all teachers and interwoven with degree and licensure offerings have been put in place and available on a school by school basis. The development of the TEC (Technology, Engineering, & Careers) Network SCSU has expanded all these activities for the partner schools around the state. Details are below.

## Teacher License

**Technology Education:**

We continue the traditional Technology Education Bachelor of Science degree. This degree results in a grade 5–12 license for the teachers, graduating 5–10 per year.

We also have a Master of Science in Technology Education. This program provides flexibility for career changers and existing teachers to earn a Masters, Technology Education license, CTE license and /or a Work Based Learning license. We offer online and summer workshops to earn the 36 credits.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):**

There are 2 parts. Part 1 is the Core skills — four courses and is required for all CTE licenses.

- Contemporary Instructional Strategies (Spring)
- Foundations of Technology Education (Spring)
- Lab Safety and Maintenance (Fall)
- Philosophy and Practice (Fall)

The courses are offered online and are eight weeks in length. This is an endorsement to an existing license. It is expected that most portfolio reviews will take place during the summer.

Part 2 is the content area — This will be a portfolio submitted for one of the four trades and industry areas.

- Communication
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Transportation

**Work Based Learning:**

We were approved for the WBL license this year. This program is 3 graduate courses offered online. Classes:

- Fundamentals of WBL – (Summer)
- Designing student experiences for WBL – (Fall)
- Managing WBL settings – (Spring)

This license is an endorsement to an existing license and requires a teacher to have a license that covers grades 9–12.

## Manufacturing Engineering Technology

The Manufacturing Engineering Technology program is an applied engineering field that looks for better ways to manufacture products. This includes reducing cycle times, maintaining quality, and keeping costs reasonable.

The field emphasizes engineering problem solving using a hands-on approach rather than the complex analysis that an engineer would typically use. The curriculum focuses on hands-on experiences to prepare the graduate for an exciting career in the midst of production activities.

*"Overall, I think this was a great experience for the students as well as myself. A person tends to forget how much knowledge they have on a subject until they are questioned."* —Gina

Quote from company who just completed a senior design project: *"What was most positive about the experience? . . . working with the youth, they were great!"*

## TEC Network Project

The following types of activities will be developed and supported by SCSU. Each school selected to be a part of the Technology Network will receive the following:

1. Equipment access (Over $1,300,000 worth of equipment; new equipment added to meet changing needs of industry)
2. Professional development (Summer workshops; on-site support; CTE license; graduate courses; WBL License)
3. Program review
4. Advisory board support
5. Program enhancement plan (district will determine items needed) Examples include: Youth apprenticeship plan; Career awareness/readiness; Recruitment ideas/plan; STEM activities/curriculum
6. Network meetings of all teachers, administrators, and business partners

For additional information:
Kurt Helgeson
krhelgeson@stcloudstate.edu
320-308-3127

# Apply for a Grant

## Webb Family Foundation Grants

The Webb Family Foundation makes grants in the areas of education; youth development; career and workforce readiness; financial literacy; entrepreneurship; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; digital and blended learning; and youth mentorship. The foundation supports programs and projects that target underserved children and youth.

**Deadline:** Letters of Inquiry are accepted year-round.

**Website:** webbfamilyfoundation.org/learn-how-to-apply/learn

## The Harry Chapin Foundation Education Grant

The mission of the Harry Chapin Foundation is to support organizations that have demonstrated their ability to dramatically improve the lives and livelihood of people by helping them to become self-sufficient. Funding is given to not-for-profit programs in the following areas:

- Arts-In-Education Programs
- Community Education Programs
- Agricultural and Environmental Programs

Grants up to $10,000 are awarded.

**Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Website:** harrychapinfoundation.org/apply

## The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership Grants

The Education Grant program supports nonprofit organizations to assist K–12 students, teachers, and the community to deepen their understanding about Japan, promote cross-cultural exchange, and nurture global perspectives. Project examples include but are not limited to: community outreach, teacher workshops, cultural events.

Grants up to $5,000 are awarded.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**Website:** www.cgp.org/grassroots-exchange-and-education/education-grants

## Amber Brown Grant

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) offers the Amber Brown Grant to commemorate author Paula Danziger. The grant is awarded annually to one school and includes a visit by a children's book author or illustrator to encourage children and youth to read and connect them with creative influences.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted November 1 through April 15, annually.

**Website:** www.scbwi.org/awards/grants/amber-brown-grant

## The Guitar Center Music Foundation

The Guitar Center Music Foundation awards traditional instruments only to not-for-profit or public school music instruction programs in the United States. To qualify as a music instruction program, participants must be learning how to make music. Participants can be of any age. A qualified program must fit into one of these four categories:

- In-school music classes, in which the students make music
- After-school music programs that are not run by the school
- Community music programs, which offer music instruction to community members
- Music therapy programs, in which the participants make the music

**Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Website:** guitarcenterfoundation.org/grants

## Laird Norton Family Foundation Arts in Education Grant

The goal of the Arts in Education program is to increase arts education and to improve pre-K through grade 12 student learning through the arts. Funding will be directed toward programs that seek to enhance students' educational outcomes rather than to simply increase participation in, or appreciation for, the arts.

**Deadline:** First step is to complete an information form to be reviewed by the Foundation prior to completing a full application.

**Website:** www.lairdnorton.org

## Sony Corporation of America Grants

Sony Corporation of America and its operating companies offer funding to programs that support education and creative, artistic, technical, and scientific skills that are necessary for tomorrow's workforce.

**Deadline:** Requests are accepted year-round.

**Website:** www.sony.com/en_us//SCA/social-responsibility/giving-guidelines.html

## ecoSolution Grants

The Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) awards ecoSolution Grants to support solution-oriented, youth-led projects that result in real environmental outcomes. Projects must be solution-oriented, project-based, performed by youth, and have real environmental outcomes.

Awards range from $500 to $2,500.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted September 15 through January 15 and March 15 through July 15, annually.

**Website:** captainplanetfoundation.org/grants/ecosolution

## Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen Program

The Emeril Lagasse Foundation works to inspire, mentor, and enable student success by integrating gardening and cooking concepts into school curriculums. Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen Program partners with qualified elementary and middle schools to inspire appreciation for food sources and understanding of nutrition and healthy eating, promote life skills, and teach culinary skills.

**Deadline:** Letters of Interest are accepted year-round.

**Website:** emeril.org/emerils-culinary-gardens/schools

## Toshiba America Grant Program for 6–12 Science and Mathematics Educators

Toshiba America Foundation accepts applications from teachers who are passionate about making science and mathematics more engaging for their students. The foundation seeks to support teachers by providing funds to support innovative ideas for improving STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) learning in the classroom.

**Deadline:** Requests for grants less than $5,000 are due March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, annually. Requests for grants of more than $5,000 are due May 1 and November 1, annually.

**Website:** www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp

## National Science Foundation

***Cyberlearning for Work at the Human-Technology Frontier***

The Cyberlearning for Work at the Human-Technology Frontier program supports learning technology research that integrates both learning and technological goals to enable radical improvements in learning within educational and work environments.

**Deadline:** Applications are due January 11, 2021 and the second Monday in January, annually thereafter.

**Website:** www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504984

## Saxena Family Foundation Grants

The Saxena Family Foundation has a particular focus on initiatives that promote US science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and the empowerment of girls, female children, and young women so that they have equal rights later in life. The foundation focuses on empowerment programs to include economic, educational, and political empowerment of women through literacy programs, jobs, and life-skills training.

Most awards range from $5,000 to $50,000.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**Website:** saxenafoundation.com/guidelines

## Verizon Foundation Grants

The Verizon Foundation supports kindergarten through grade 12 education in science, education, technology, and mathematics (STEM); and domestic violence education and prevention for youth, women, and older adults. In STEM education, funding supports activities such as summer or after-school programs, teacher training, and research on improving learning in STEM areas through use of technology.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**Website:** www.verizon.com/about/responsibility/grant-requirements

## National Society of High School Scholars Grants

***STEAM Educator Grants***

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) offers STEAM Educator Grants that support science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) activities; innovation; and classroom excellence. Grants may be used for supplies, materials, field trips, and other resources that enhance STEAM teaching and learning.

Grants of $1,000 are awarded.

**Deadline:** Open for Applications, Fall 2020

**Website:** www.nshss.org/educators/grants

## High School Weight Room Grants

The Lift Life Foundation's mission is to help provide young people with tools to improve their fitness levels and boost self-worth. The foundation provides high schools across the United States with the opportunity to have their school weight room transformed with brand-new equipment.

**Deadline:** Nominations are accepted year-round.

**Website:** www.liftlifefoundation.org

**Continued on Page 18**

# Eight Minnesota Schools Receive National Blue Ribbon School Recognition

Eight schools across Minnesota have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools. The award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years.

All eight Minnesota schools were recognized in the category of "Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools." These schools are among their state's highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

The 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards were announced on September 24, and a ceremony will be held virtually Nov. 12 and 13.

### Centennial Elementary School
### Circle Pines, MN

Centennial Elementary is located in Circle Pines, Minnesota. Our school serves students in Preschool through 5th Grade from multiple communities, with an open enrollment rate over twice the state average. We are a proud Title One school, supporting the diverse socioeconomic needs of our learners.

Our entire staff, including paraprofessionals, custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, and all others who work at our building believe in fostering a team approach. Our staff dedicates much time and attention to learning about each student, promoting confidence and a willingness to take risks in their learning. Using the philosophies behind PBIS and AVID, we have witnessed students exceeding their academic and personal goals.

With the expertise of our Special Education, Title I, and related services staff, our Professional Learning Communities collaborate regularly to prioritize our students' goals and their progress toward them. Our common formative assessments drive the direction of our instruction. We have high academic expectations for our students, encouraging them to meet or exceed their full potential.

### Grey Cloud Elementary School
### Cottage Grove, MN

On a daily basis almost 100 team members warmly welcome over 700 K-5 learners to our community elementary school, Grey Cloud. All teams members embrace our shared ownership in creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment with a persistent focus on student growth. We build strong relationships, provide individualized instruction, and maintain high expectations for both students and adults. Our S.O.A.R. program, allows us to teach students how to be Safe, Organized, Accountable, and Respectful and to praise them for building these successful habits. We embrace failure, vulnerability, and servant leadership building trusting relationships with our students, staff, and families and create systems keep our efforts sustainable.

### Highland Elementary School
### Apple Valley, MN

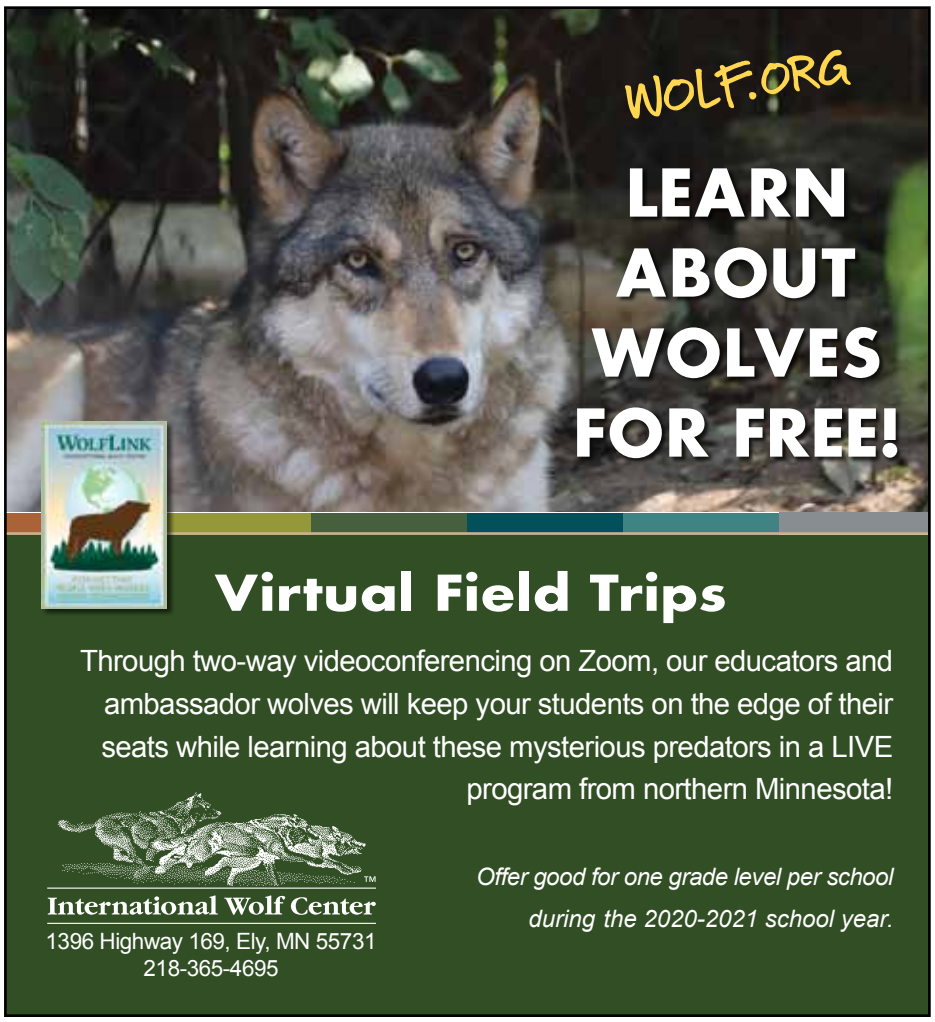
Highland has a two-fold approach of technology and use of outdoor spaces to make distance learning work in our school and district. It became immediately clear that technology is vital to lessen the digital divide between different socioeconomic groups for distance learning. Our focus has been making sure every child in our district will have an iPad and internet access in preparation of the continuation of hybrid and distant learning.

Secondly, our school has made excellent use of unique outdoor learning spaces. We built an Environmental Learning Garden at our school in 2006. It was a community effort to make a dedicated space for learning about science, weather and ecosystems. We also added four large raised-bed vegetable gardens connected by a pergola for an inviting space of exploring. The students plant and take care of the gardens in the spring. They learn about seeds, germination, soil, water and life cycle of plants and butterflies. They also experience the joy of watching plants come through the soil. In the summer, the students in the summer daycare program and local Scouting organizations take care of the garden and we incorporate service learning in our garden by donating produce to a local food shelf. We hope this fosters a lifelong love of gardening as well as a sense of service learning.

### Houston Elementary School
### Houston, MN

Excellence has become the tradition at Houston Elementary School, but this excellence was not always the case. In the late 1990s, the achievement gap between the economically advantaged and disadvantaged students was at least a 43 percent discrepancy in both mathematics and reading. Since over 40 percent of the student body qualified for free- or reduced-price lunch, this achievement gap was glaring and pernicious. The staff developed multiple supports for all students, including built-in intervention and tutoring time during the day since many of the families did not have the time or resources to provide this support in the evening. These interventions have continued and have been continually improved, which helped the school close the gap to well under 10 percent in both academic areas. Striving for excellence in academics, in respectful treatment of others, in being helpful and generous, and in working to be a positive citizen in the school and community is now the mission of the students at Houston Elementary School.

**Continued on Page 19**



# Student Contests and Awards

## High School and Middle School National Science Bowl

The US Department of Energy (DOE) National Science Bowl (NSB) is a nationwide academic competition for middle and high school students that tests knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. It was created in 1991 to encourage students to excel in mathematics and science and to pursue careers in those fields. All teams first compete in regional competitions, and the regional championship teams then compete at the national event.

**Deadline:** Regional competition dates vary, but are typically between January and March. See the website for specific dates. The national competition will take place April 29–May 3, 2021.

**Website:** science.osti.gov/wdts/nsb

## Recycle Rally

Recycle Rally is a free nationwide school recycling program designed specifically for K–12 schools. It provides access to a vast array of downloadable resources and valuable incentives to inspire K–12 students and their surrounding communities to become proud and frequent recyclers. Recycle Rally offers schools the opportunity to set recycling goals, track progress toward those goals and earn reward points for each estimated plastic bottle and aluminum can recycled. The reward points can be redeemed for useful supplies or gift cards to help the school. Recycle Rally also hosts contests and promotions that offer opportunities to win additional prizes for encouraging and increasing recycling.

**Website:** www.pepsicorecycling.com/RecycleRally

## Celebrate Earth Science Week 2020 with American Geosciences Institute's Contests

### 2020 Photography Contest

Celebrate Earth Science Week 2020 with AGI's photography contest. The photography theme for this year is: "Earth Materials in My Community." The photography contest is open to interested persons of any age. You must be a resident of the United States or an international member of an AGI Member Society or an AGI International Associate Society to enter.

**Deadline:** All eligible submissions must be received electronically by 5 p.m. ET, Friday, October 16, 2020.

**Website:** www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography

### 2020 Visual Arts Contest

Celebrate Earth Science Week 2020 with AGI's visual arts contest. Artwork should focus on the topic "Earth Science and Me." The contest is open to students in grades K–5 who are residents of the United States. Participants should use their artistic ability to produce an original two-dimensional (flat) work of art that shows how Earth materials play a role in their lives.

**Deadline:** All mailed submissions must be postmarked no later than Friday, October 16, 2020.

**Website:** www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visual-arts

### 2020 Essay Contest

Celebrate Earth Science Week 2020 with AGI's essay contest. The essay theme for this year is: "How We Process Earth Materials." The essay contest is open to any interested person in grades 6–9 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original essay up to 300 words in length.

**Deadline:** All submissions must be received electronically by 5 p.m. ET, Friday, October 16, 2020.

**Website:** www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay

### 2020 Video Contest

For Earth Science Week 2020, the American Geosciences Institute invites you to enter the "Earth Materials Around the World" video contest. Submit a brief, 30-90 second, original video exploring the many ways people interact with our planet's raw materials. The contest is open to individuals or teams of interested persons of any age in any part of the world.

**Deadline:** All submissions must be received electronically by 5 p.m. ET, Friday, October 16, 2020.

**Website:** www.earthsciweek.org/contests/video

## Annual 90-Second Newbery Film Festival

The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival is an annual video contest in which young filmmakers create movies that tell the entire stories of Newbery-winning books in about 90 seconds.

**Deadline:** Deadline is January 15, 2021.

**Website:** 90secondnewbery.com

## Carton 2 Garden

Show us your students' creativity by repurposing milk and juice cartons from your school cafeteria to either build or enhance your school garden. Educators can engage students in a hands-on experience creating teachable moments on environmental stewardship, sustainable packaging and healthy living.

**Deadline Delay:** Our current plan is to monitor the re-opening of schools across the country, and then once the state-wide school closings due to COVID-19 have ended, announce a date that is 2 months from that time to give everyone a chance to complete their projects, then prepare and submit their entries.

**Website:** carton2garden.com/contest-details/spring-2019-2020-contest

## 2021 Ocean Awareness Contest

The annual Ocean Awareness Contest is a platform for young people to learn about ocean issues through art-making and creative communication, and to explore their relationship to a changing world and become advocates for positive change. The 2021 theme WATER RISING challenges students to explore and understand their connection to water, and to creatively communicate the need to protect this vital resource. Students ages 11–18 from around the world are invited to participate.

**Deadline:** Open for submissions in September 2020.

**Website:** bowseat.org/programs/ocean-awareness-contest

## eCybermission Competition

eCybermission is a web-based science, technology, engineering, and math competition for students in grades 6-9. Teams of three to four students compete for state, regional and national awards while working to solve problems in their community.

Students on the winning teams will receive U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds ranging from $500 to $6,000.

**Deadline:** All team members and advisors must register and join the team by the end of Registration – January 6, 2021.

**Website:** www.ecybermission.com

## G2 Overachievers Student Grant

Pilot Pen continues to recognize everyday heroes through the G2 Overachievers Grant. The $15,000 G2 Overachievers 2020 Student Grant will be awarded to an outstanding young scholar who is making a real difference in others' lives outside of the classroom. Send a *handwritten* story (2,500 word maximum) describing what you or someone you know is doing to be a difference maker. Share where it happened, how it worked, who it impacted and why it mattered.

**Deadline:** Submissions for the G2 Overachievers Grant will be accepted until November 15, 2020

**Website:** powertothepen.com/g2overachievers

# Grants

Continued from Page 16

## Education and Technology Program School Station Grants

The Education and Technology Program (ETP) of The National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) provides funding and resources to elementary, middle, and high schools in the United States. ETP School Station Grants are awarded for the purpose of purchasing equipment to set up a school amateur (ham) radio station.

Equipment valued at up to $1,500 is awarded.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted October 1 through November 1, annually.

**Website:** www.arrl.org/etp-grants

## Lockheed Martin STEM Education Outreach

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are the major focuses of Lockheed Martin's education outreach activity. To continue America's technological advantage and strengthen the workforce pipeline, Lockheed Martin provides funding to STEM education outreach activities for students across the entire kindergarten through grade 16 spectrum.

**Deadline:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**Website:** www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/who-we-are/communities/applying-for-contributions.html

## Air Force Junior ROTC Grants

The Air Force Association Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) grant program was established to promote aerospace education throughout classrooms and units. Applications are judged by the importance and the impact the selected aerospace activity will have on students.

Grants up to $250 are awarded.

**Deadline:** Applications are due February 10 and October 10, annually.

**Website:** www.afa.org/education/air-force-junior-rotc-grants

# Qorsho Hassan is 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Qorsho Hassan, a fourth-grade teacher at Echo Park Elementary in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan school district, is the 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Hassan is the 56th recipient of the prestigious award, and the second from Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools. An independent selection committee representing Minnesota leaders in education, business and government chooses the Minnesota Teacher of the Year from individuals who are nominated and who then choose to become a candidate.

"Being aware of the lived experiences of my marginalized students and their communities makes me fight harder to ensure they receive a high quality-education," said Hassan, a Somali-American educator, in an essay submitted to the Minnesota Teacher of the Year judges. "I build strong relationships in order to know every single student as an individual. I challenge systems of oppression such as poverty and racism by demanding more resources for my students and their families. I believe that if students are in a learning space where they feel safe, seen and heard, they will succeed."

"While we see so much focus in schools on how a teacher's classroom is performing academically, we rarely see or highlight how a classroom is performing emotionally and socially," wrote Nicole Jenne, the parent of one of Hassan's former fourth-grade students, in a letter supporting Hassan's nomination. "(Hassan's) students knew they were cared for, they knew that this was their place, for some it may have been the only place they felt as if they belonged. Each one of these students are going to grow up and go into this world, while we all want them to be prepared academically, we also want them to be prepared to be a positive community member."

This will be Hassan's first year in Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan. She taught for three years in Burnsville, and before that, three years in Ohio and one year as a teacher in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of a Fulbright Fellowship..

Education Minnesota, the 86,000-member statewide educators union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers, ECFE and ABE teachers from public or private schools.

*Source: Education Minnesota Press Release*

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# Eight Minnesota Schools Receive Blue Ribbon School Recognition Continued from Page 17

## Jefferson Elementary School
## Mankato, MN

Jefferson Elementary School is a family. We see our staff, students, and community as part of our family. Everything we do is in support of this family. We celebrate each other's successes, and we support each other through challenges. Our amazing PTO works very hard to create a family feel at events and functions they plan and host. Most importantly, our Jefferson students are the heart of this family. We routinely remind each other of the importance of loving our students.

We have also dedicated significant time and effort to creating and maintaining high fidelity PLC and RTI frameworks. Finally, a commitment to the Continuous Improvement Process, in all aspects of what we do, plays an extremely important role in the successes we celebrate. In the end, everything we do with and for our students and families connects back to our district mission of Assuring Learning Excellence and Readiness for a Changing World. We work hard every day to hold ourselves to that mission.

## Northside Elementary School
## Saint James, MN

As a Turnaround Arts partner school, we value the creativity and diversity of our student body. By incorporating the arts across subject areas, both students and staff are able to share their strengths through various mediums. We further believe in a collaborative school structure to best meet the needs of all learners. To fulfill our mission of Excellence in Education: High Expectations, Real Results, we pride ourselves on being student-centered.

We utilize a multi-faceted approach to respond to the academic and behavioral needs of each student through a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework. Through the MTSS model, teachers are able to identify the root cause of potential learning or behavioral deficits in order to target specific tiered interventions to provide the necessary supports for each student. A key component to this behavior framework is relationships. Teachers meticulously build relationships and create cultures of learning within their classrooms to set all students up for success.

## Richmond Elementary School
## Richmond, MN

Richmond Elementary is a small school that is one of three elementary schools that are apart of ROCORI School District set in Central Minnesota. Our school is rich in tradition and is the pride of the community. Richmond Elementary has strong relationships with students, families and the community where the understanding that it is a partnership to set high expectations for our students and provide the support all students need to be successful.

Teachers at Richmond Elementary use their data to drive their instruction and tailor their instruction to meet the needs of all students where they were at and develop goals to where they want and need to be. Data driven instruction along with small group instruction is key to our students' success.

Richmond Elementary has a strong partnership with our Parent Team Committee. We work together to provide opportunities for students, staff and their families to come together to learn, communicate, and have fun! Such opportunities are our Winter Carnival, Spring Walk-a-Thon, Parent Teacher Conferences, and the idea that our door is always open! We welcome parents in to volunteer, for lunch, and just to visit for the day. Because of the strong relationships Richmond Elementary has built our families feel at home when they walk through our doors.

## Sunset Hill Elementary School
## Plymouth, MN

Sunset Hill is fortunate to have a more racially and economically diverse student body than the district overall. This has allowed us to offer our students ongoing learning experiences that embrace different perspectives and beliefs. In turn, we have been able to build a strong community with healthy relationships, which have become the core of our work.

We are keenly aware that students will not excel academically if the relationships they develop with each other and with staff go unnurtured or under-supported. To capitalize on the power of community, we began implementing practices around Restitution three years ago. This has enhanced our PBIS programming in that it has given students and staff an understanding of how to be one's best self, that mistakes are expected, and that preparing relationships strengthens the individual and the community overall. Students are increasingly aware of how their choices and actions impact themselves and others. This social and emotional component, in addition to robust models of support, has further created empathic, confident, and creative students.

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# 134 Teachers are Candidates for 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year

The 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be chosen from a field of 134 candidates. These candidates have accepted their nominations and completed the required materials to become eligible for the honor.

This year's program will name the 56th Minnesota Teacher of the Year, celebrating the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Eligible candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade, Early Childhood Family Education and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

The 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced Sunday, May 3, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. Over the coming weeks, a 25-member panel of community leaders will name a group of semifinalists and finalists.

The candidates for 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, listed by their school districts, are:

Carol Thompson, *Alden-Conger Public School District*

Karinda Duffy, *Annandale Public Schools*

Heather Birklid, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Amber Delliger, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Teresa Dwyer, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Stephanie Gwin, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Patricia Halsey, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Amy Quinn, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Andrea Whitcomb, *Anoka-Hennepin School District*

Maria Mickelson, *Austin Public Schools*

Erin Koshiol, *Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Schools*

Zach McDermott, *Bemidji Area Schools*

Jeffrey Levine, *Bloomington Public Schools*

Katrina Van Ruyven, *Bloomington Public Schools*

Sarah Weber, *Bloomington Public Schools*

Qorsho Hassan, *Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District*

Roberta (Bobbie) Kunkel, *Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District*

Julie Jacobsma, *Cambridge Isanti Schools*

Michael Gunderson, *Cannon Falls Area Schools*

Neil Smith, *Cannon Valley Special Education Cooperative*

Daniel DeRuyck, *Centennial Schools*

Nora Gathje, *Chatfield Public Schools*

Peg Nelson, *Columbia Heights Public Schools*

Kim Davidson, *Crookston Public Schools*

Jason Koets, *Delano Public Schools District*

Nicole Jensen, *Duluth Public Schools*

Brian Jungman, *Duluth Public Schools*

Linda Puglisi, *Duluth Public Schools*

Pam Brownell, *Eden Prairie Schools*

Corey Christopherson, *Eden Prairie Schools*

Cindy Dooley, *Eden Prairie Schools*

Kari Moore, *Eden Prairie Schools*

Maria Villavicencio, *Eden Prairie Schools*

Stephen Sanger, *Edina Public Schools*

Lisa Becker, *Elk River Public Schools*

Scott Lillestrand, *Elk River Public Schools*

Deb Colborn, *Elk River Public Schools*

Natasha Goudy, *Elk River Public Schools*

Jerry Brooks, *Fairmont Area Schools*

Anna Bakker-Anderson, *Farmington Area Public Schools*

Josh Hall, *Farmington Area Public Schools*

Amy Beske, *Fergus Falls Public Schools*

Ann Zitzow, *Frazee-Vergas Public School*

Scott Robinson, *Gibbon Fairfax Winthrop Schools*

Doyle Zellar, *Heron Lake-Okabena Schools*

Lara McDowell, *Hibbing Public Schools*

Chris Adams, *Hopkins Public Schools*

Shannon Finnegan, *Hopkins Public Schools*

Cassandra Haga, *Intermediate District 287*

Matthew Corey, *Inver Grove Heights Schools*

Amy Evans, *Isle Public Schools*

Erica Colby, *Jackson County Central School District*

Alex Keilen, *Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial District*

Kathrina O'Connell, *Lake Park Audubon School District*

Jamye Casperson, *Lakeville Area Schools*

Jonathan Gilmer, *Lakeville Area Schools*

Nicole Hewitt, *Lakeville Area Schools*

Jennifer Noreault, *Lakeville Area Schools*

Anna Duffy, *Mahtomedi Public Schools*

Ann Garry, *Mahtomedi Public Schools*

Angie Davis, *Mankato Area Public Schools*

Marty Brandl, *Marshall Public Schools*

Jennifer Pilon, *Minneapolis Public Schools*

Leanne Smith, *Minnetonka Public Schools*

Todd Rietveld, *Montevideo Public Schools*

Jon Larson, *Moorhead Area Public Schools*

Amy Mumm, *Morris Area Schools*

Lisa Eldred, *Mounds View Public Schools*

Abby Scott, *Mounds View Public Schools*

Tim Bobeldyk, *Murray County Central Schools*

Regina Calvert, *Nicollet Public School*

Marybeth Youngblut, *Northfield Public Schools*

Lisa Imsdahl, *North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District*

John Olson, *Ortonville Public Schools*

Kori Brown, *Osseo Area Schools*

Jan Radder, *Osseo Area Schools*

Jessica Spurrell, *Osseo Area Schools*

Dustin Thorson, *Owatonna Public Schools*

Lynn Jerman, *Parnassus Preparatory School*

Faye Sandy, *Pierz Public Schools*

Ryan (Caleb) Larson, *Pine City Public Schools*

Anthony McGee, *Plainview-Elgin-Millville Community Schools*

Heather Pelican, *Proctor Public Schools*

Steve Ballard, *Red Lake School District*

Jennifer Hinckley, *Red Lake School District*

Omar Mcmillan, *Richfield Public Schools*

Janet Rein, *Robbinsdale Area Schools*

Billie Pace-Gaczyk, *Robbinsdale Area Schools*

Leif Eidsmoe, *Roseau Community Schools*

Katie Coulson, *Rosemount- Apple Valley-Eagan District*

Allyson Jelinski, *Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan District*

Sara Laine, *Roseville Area Schools*

Melissa Hammer, *Royalton Public Schools*

Andrew Brigger, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Jennifer Funkhouser, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Courtney Gbolo, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Anna Parvi, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Sherri Quinn, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Patricia Boyt, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

DeWayne Combs, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

Donna Ryder, *Saint Paul Public Schools*

## Minnesota Teacher of the Year Facts

*From Education Minnesota*

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year program has recognized excellence in teaching in Minnesota for 56 years. The program selects one teacher to represent the state's thousands of excellent educators. In 2019, Jessica Davis was selected as the Minnesota Teacher of the Year from a group of 169 educators.

- The Teacher of the Year and finalists speak to education organizations, community groups, students, legislators and media.
- Pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers in public, private or parochial schools may be nominated. Nominees must hold at least a bachelor's degree and a license to teach in Minnesota; have taught at least five years; and intend to continue teaching. Colleagues, students, parents or anyone else may nominate a teacher.
- To enter the state program, nominees submit an entry portfolio, which includes their teaching philosophy, professional accomplishments and letters of recommendation. This year 115 educators submitted portfolios.
- A panel of 20 to 25 community leaders selects honorees from the portfolios, choosing semifinalists and then finalists. The Minnesota Teacher of the Year is selected from a group of 10–12 finalists.
- Minnesota's Commissioner of Education will nominate the 2019 Minnesota Teacher of the Year for the National Teacher of the Year program. The national program is presented by the ING Foundation, and is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers.
- The current Minnesota Teacher of the Year is Jessica Davis of the South St. Paul Secondary in South St. Paul.
- Four Minnesotans have become National Teacher of the Year — Mary Beth Blegen, Worthington, 1996; Guy Doud, Brainerd, 1986; Robert Heyer, Mounds View, 1975; and Roger Tenney, Owatonna, 1966.

# Ashley Farrington, Wayzata Central Middle School, Selected as MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal

Ashley Farrington, Wayzata Public Schools assistant principal of Wayzata Central Middle School in Plymouth and a member of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), is Minnesota's 2020 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal. MESPA and NAESP present this prestigious annual award.

"I spend a lot of time engaging with our teachers and administrators and have always recognized that Ashley is a special young man. I have found him to be very bright, a high-quality person, an excellent educator and someone with a great future," wrote Chace B. Anderson, Superintendent of Wayzata Public Schools, in his letter of recommendation for Farrington. "Ashley is an excellent assistant principal who will one day also be an excellent lead principal and likely a district administrator if this is where his career interest evolves."

One of Farrington's major accomplishments as assistant principal is his school's work with equity and creating a welcoming and safe environment for all students. As an educator of color, that work is very personal for him and a major reason that he does what he does every day. He wants to be an example for all students, but especially for students of color—to provide students and families with a positive image of a black male in a prominent role of principal.

"It was clear that Ashley Farrington has gone above and beyond for his staff and his students. His passion for education stands out in both his accomplishments and with the continued work he does each and every day. This honor is well deserved and he will serve MESPA well by being recognized as Minnesota's National Outstanding Assistant Principal," said MESPA President-Elect Jason Luksik, principal of Lincoln Elementary in Bemidji Area Schools and chair the MN National Outstanding Assistant Principal selection committee.

The National Outstanding Assistant Principal program was established in 2011 to honor assistant principals who are doing a superb job in their roles. MESPA and NAESP are committed to preparing assistant principals to step into the principal role. This program promotes educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade (PreK-8) schooling and calls attention to the fundamental importance of the assistant principal.

"I feel honored to be chosen by MESPA for this prestigious award. A special shout out goes out to my amazing family, particularly my wife, Hilary, who supports me day in and day out. Without her, I would not be able to do great work at school," said Farrington. "Of course, I would also like to thank my Central Middle School family. This award is dedicated to them for all their hard work that they do to make our school great for kids every day!"

Prior to working at Central Middle School, Farrington served as Student Support Specialist and a 3rd grade teacher at Meadow Ridge Elementary, also in the Wayzata Public School district.

*Source — Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association press release*

www.wayzataschools.org
(763) 745-5000

# 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Candidates Continued from Page 21

Kyle Warner, *Saint Paul Public Schools*
Mark Westpfahl, *Saint Paul Public Schools*
Lisa Schramel, *Sauk Centre Public Schools*
Ashlee Johnson, *Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools*
Sheila Matzke, *Shakopee Public Schools*
Rachael Schweigert, *Shakopee Public Schools*
Jane Cornell, *South St. Paul Public Schools*
Tania Lauby, *South St. Paul Public Schools*
Jaimie Forkrud, *South Washington County Schools*
Jason Jankowski, *South Washington County Schools*
Lisa Peterson, *South Washington County Schools*
Mary Mohr-Scinocca, *Spring Lake Park Schools*
Nora Tycast, *Spring Lake Park Schools*
Maya Kruger, *St. Anthony-New Brighton School District*
John Myszkowski, *St. Louis Park Public Schools*
Jody Kelly, *St. Michael-Albertville Schools*
Stephanie Affeldt, *Stewartville Public Schools*
Jim Parry, *Stewartville Public Schools*
Rachel Steil, *Stillwater Area Public Schools*
Catie Jacobs, *Twin Cities German Immersion School*
T.J. Pelanek, *Underwood School District*
Lisa A. Weniger, *Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools*
Melanie Vickmark, *Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Schools*
Emily Haugh, *Wayzata Public Schools*
Dawn Johnson, *Wayzata Public Schools*
Amanda Laden, *Wayzata Public Schools*
Steve Newman, *Wayzata Public Schools*
Klair Hans, *Westonka Public Schools*
Jessica Lunski, *Westonka Public Schools*
Sara Schwartz, *Westonka Public Schools*
Bobbie Jo Tronsgard, *Westonka Public Schools*
Tressa Lanter, *Wheaton Area Schools*
Darin Raasch, *Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools*

*Source: Education Minnesota Press Release*

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