

Building a Movement

Round 1 Funded Project Brief 1/4

The Building a Movement fund supports promising strategies seeking to build the cross-sector connections, frameworks and relationships needed to scale career pathways across the state and create high-quality opportunities for students in Minnesota. Organizations, school districts, charter schools, or post-secondary partners applied over six funding rounds on their own or as part of a partnership for funding and technical assistance support. All projects are aligned to the core components of Career Academies and focus on strengthening career pathways that include access to college credit in a high school sequence, rigorous and relevant coursework and related work experience. Funding is coupled with technical assistance (in partnership with the Minnesota Service Cooperatives and individual career pathways leaders).

The funded projects are described in this brief. Our goal is to inform you of the incredible work happening in our communities and inspire efforts that will scale career pathways across the state.

Round 1 High Level Overview

- 11 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Dual Enrollment, Coursework, Employer Engagement, and General Development
- **Themes:** Youth Voice, General Development, Career & Technical Education (CTE), Continuing Education/Concurrent Enrollment, Employer Engagement, Convening/Events
- **Geographic Diversity:** Carlton, Crow Wing/Cass, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Sherburne, St. Louis, Steele, and statewide initiatives

Asian American Business Resilience Network

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer engagement and building work experiences
- **Project Focus:** The project addresses disparities in STEM education and IT career access for students of color by implementing more inclusive curricula and learning approaches while strengthening employer partnerships through culturally relevant engagement strategies.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create and strengthen career pathway programs at MN Prep Academy and Skyline Math and Science Academy, based on Project TECH approach.
 - Create a AABRN employer and business network to prepare partners with resources and processes to participate in career pathways.

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General career pathways development
- **Project Focus:** Drawing on stakeholder engagement, student feedback, community input, and collaboration with educational partners, this effort is elevating youth voice across all participating organizations to ensure programs align with the needs, goals, and experiences of the young people they serve.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop Comprehensive Training Materials for Youth Leaders.
 - Conduct a Comprehensive Youth Needs Assessment.
 - Establish a Youth Advisory Board.

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Exploration High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Project Focus:** Guided by student feedback and community input, Exploration High School is expanding its Career and Industry program to include pathways in construction, culinary arts, civic engagement, and internships, creating more opportunities for hands-on learning, industry-recognized credentials, and real-world career experiences.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish a Culinary Pathway.
 - Increase the number of community partnerships.

Freshwater Education District

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer engagement and building work experiences, General career pathways development
- **Project Focus:** Building on ongoing efforts to develop CTE pathways across 22 central Minnesota high schools, the Central Lakes Secondary Perkins Consortium and Region 5 Development Commission are strengthening collaboration among educators within shared content areas to support high-quality career pathway development and help students create individualized plans for their future careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Increase the number of professional development opportunities.
 - Increase technical skills, industry certification, employability skills, and develop a plan for work-based learning or internships

GPS Education Partners

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Program Focus:** Through a Human-Centered Design event, GPS Education Partners is bringing together stakeholders from across the work-based learning ecosystem to gather community feedback, develop innovative solutions, and strengthen career pathways, partnerships, and outcomes for diverse student populations.
- **Proposal:**
 - Organize a Human-Centered Design convening focused on improving work-based learning outcomes.
 - Stakeholders and other community members will learn about the benefits of human-centered design as it relates to work-based learning opportunities that benefit underrepresented populations.
 - Local cross-sector partnerships will be created that co-design solutions for collaborative success.

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Project Success

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General career pathways development
- **Project Focus:** Building on Project Success's long-standing work to expand college and career readiness opportunities, PS Ventures is engaging high school students in hands-on career exploration and skill development experiences that connect them to career and technical education pathways and rewarding, sustainable careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Convening as part of an industry-related event or activity.
 - Cost to convene students and professionals.
 - Students working alongside industry professionals on project, building skills and deep professional connections.

Reve Academy

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Project Focus:** Expanding partnerships with schools, Reve Academy is delivering business industry-aligned workshops, courses, and applied learning experiences that support academic achievement while preparing students for careers in human-centered design, entrepreneurship, Agile methodology, and business innovation. The initiative also provides teacher training and enhanced learning resources to help educators implement and sustain these career pathway opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Design a framework for successful CTE nonprofit to school partnership.

Science Museum of Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer Engagement
- **Project Focus:** Through Workforce Ecosystems for Change, the Science Museum of Minnesota's Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center is convening a cross-sector, intergenerational working group to build on its STEM Justice approach and lay the foundation for a new workforce development framework that integrates positive youth development, social justice, rigorous STEM learning, and the evolving workforce needs of the Twin Cities region.
- **Proposal:**
 - Intentionally connect SMM's Center for Equity and Systems Change stakeholders.
 - Ensure an immediate and tangible increase in opportunities.
 - Shift deeply held habits of thoughts or mental models that are preventing workforce, K-12, government, social justice, and youth development leaders from aligning around goals and strategies.

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UnCommon Construction

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer Engagement
- **Project Focus:** Through its earn-and-learn construction program, unCommon Construction is launching a Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle that brings together construction industry leaders to expand students' access to professional networks, mentorship, and career-connected learning experiences while strengthening pathways into the construction workforce.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create a criteria for membership in the Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle.
 - Establish members of the Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Project Focus:** By partnering with employers, community foundations, and educational organizations across the region, Rock Ridge Career Academies is connecting students to career exploration, industry skill development, and clear pathways to future success. Engagement from employers representing industries such as mining, engineering, automotive, healthcare, metal fabrication, hospitality, and nonprofits helps ensure students gain meaningful exposure to in-demand career opportunities and workforce needs.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop additional partnerships and career pathways.
 - Engage in planning sessions to strengthen and grow the career academies.

Willow River Area Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement and building work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Through a regional partnership among Moose Lake Community School, Willow River Area School, and Barnum Public Schools, a coordinated mentorship program is connecting juniors and seniors with local employers and industry professionals for career exploration and guidance. Integrated into required personal finance courses, the program provides students with structured mentoring experiences that strengthen career awareness and connections to local workforce opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Build local workforce and create meaningful school to work connections.
 - Create opportunities for students to interact directly with local industry to develop their career knowledge in a measurable manner.

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Round 2 High Level Overview

- 11 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Dual Enrollment, Coursework, Employer Engagement, and General Development
- **Themes:** Driving Meaningful Work Experiences, General Development, Career & Technical Education (CTE), Continuing Education/Concurrent Enrollment, Employer Engagement, Convenings/Events
- **Geographic Diversity:** Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Itasca/Clearwater, Sherburne, Isanti, St. Louis

Achieve Twin Cities

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Achieve Twin Cities is strengthening connections between school-based career advising and paid summer internship experiences while aligning its efforts with district, employer, and community partners. This work supports the development of coordinated career pathways that help students explore careers, gain real-world experience, and connect those opportunities to postsecondary plans that reflect their goals and interests.
- **Proposal:**
 - Conduct a comprehensive landscape study to gather feedback on our programming and other existing Minneapolis-Saint Paul youth internship and career exposure, exploration, and readiness programming.
 - Analyze the landscape study to identify gaps in service and opportunities for Achieve to refine our work to meet students' career readiness needs and expectations, and that the skills and competencies students receive align with local workforce needs.
 - Design a new program model outlining key activities and strategies, staffing structure, outputs, outcomes, and indicators and Implementation Plan that directly addresses students career readiness and local workforce needs.

Burnsville Chamber of Commerce

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement
- **Project Focus:** Convened by the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce Business Education Network, the Pathways Work Experience Summit is bringing together education, business, and community stakeholders to evaluate existing programs, research effective practices, and develop a sustainable model for paid student work experiences. The effort is designed to strengthen and expand work-based learning opportunities that complement the Career Pathways framework at Burnsville High School.
- **Proposal:**
 - Provide the resources and support needed to convene the Summit.
 - Develop ongoing, sustainable work experiences for students at Burnsville High School.

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Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement, general development
- **Project Focus:** In response to feedback from youth indicating limited awareness of local career opportunities, CMJTS is collaborating with businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to develop Employer Career Pathways that connect students to Career and Technical Education programs, classroom learning, and meaningful employment opportunities within their communities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop 40 Employer Career Pathways graphics encompassing a diverse range of employers, ensuring representation from each industry sector aligned with the MDE career wheel.
 - Disseminate these tools and resources to both employers and all local school districts.
 - Long-term goal is to track the effectiveness and impact of the employer career pathway graphics on local.

East Side Neighborhood Services, Inc

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on expanding access to career opportunities for youth ages 14–24 affected by disparities, East Side Neighborhood Services provided work readiness training, career exploration, and connections to community-minded employers through its Youth Employment Programs. Based at Menlo Park Academy, the initiative helps students build professional networks, explore career pathways, and develop clear education and career goals that support long-term employment success.
- **Proposal:**
 - Expand partnerships with employers, increase the number of internships available, and offer additional career pathway options.
 - Establish long-term, sustainable pathways by developing lasting relationships with employers and ensuring ongoing career support for students, helping them achieve lasting financial independence.

GPS Education Partners

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences; General development
- **Project Focus:** To support the expansion of high-quality work-based learning programs, this initiative is using a Work-Based Learning Capabilities Survey to identify the resources, supports, and strategies schools need to strengthen implementation. The effort recognizes the unique needs of schools across different regions and student populations, helping tailor career-connected learning opportunities to local contexts.
- **Proposal:**
 - Successfully prototype the WBL Capabilities Survey and will roll out the Strategy Toolkit.

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ISD 6070 Itasca Area Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Developed through the Itasca Area Schools Collaborative, the Next Career Pathways program connects students across seven regional school districts and Minnesota North College to career-focused coursework and hands-on learning experiences. Offering pathways in business, computer science, construction, education, healthcare, manufacturing, natural resources/agriculture, and automotive, the program aligns classroom learning with industry tours, internships, and professional mentorship opportunities that prepare students for future careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Increase student participation in career pathways.
 - Increase the Number of Employer Partnerships and Work-Based Learning Opportunities.
 - Expand Access to Career Pathways for Underserved Students: Through targeted outreach, continue to find innovative ways to provide equitable career-related educational opportunities to Indigenous and low-income

Lakeville Chamber of Commerce

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences; General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening connections between students and local career opportunities, this initiative is expanding participation in the Youth Skills Training program, developing a customizable career pathways model, and organizing dedicated career exploration experiences that help students engage with potential career and workforce options.
- **Proposal:**
 - Increase participation in our current Youth Skills Training program.
 - Create a customizable and shareable Pathways model using current curriculum offerings.
 - Create a customized career exploration day for freshmen, sophomores, and seniors.

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Minnesota North College

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Through a partnership with the True North Stars Consortium, Minnesota North College is expanding access to dual enrollment opportunities that connect high school students to high-quality career and technical education pathways. Building on decades of experience preparing the region's workforce, the collaboration strengthens alignment between secondary and postsecondary education while supporting industry needs through programs in healthcare, technical education, and other high-demand fields.
- **Proposal:**
 - Enhance existing partnerships and build new partnerships between MNC, Arrowhead regional K-12 schools, and local healthcare industry leaders through ongoing partnership meetings.
 - Develop a detailed strategic plan and healthcare curriculum which outline industry workforce needs, objectives, activities, personnel, and financial and equipment resources available for immediate and long-term sustainability of healthcare concurrent enrollment programming.
 - Determine an evaluation plan to assess initial and long-term impact of programming to meet regional workforce needs.

Northeast Metro Intermediate School District #916

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Guided by student and family feedback and informed by analysis of district-level data, Northeast Metro 916 is enhancing college and career readiness programming through targeted strategies that support students' postsecondary goals, respond to evolving workforce needs, and strengthen the district's leadership in career-connected learning within alternative education.
- **Proposal:**
 - Enhance Work Based Learning courses with relevant and rigorous curriculum aligned to industry needs, and increase local employer partner "learn and earn" opportunities for students.
 - Establish relationships with local industry partners, and invite guest speakers into our schools to inform, mentor, and connect with students who are pursuing their next steps pathways after high school graduation.
 - Establish and build upon cross-sectional career and college partners in order to host a 916 district wide Career and College Fair that engages over 200 students and 50 college and career partners in next steps exploration and networking opportunities for students.

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United Way of Central Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General development
- **Project Focus:** Through its Future 100 initiative, St. Cloud Area Schools is partnering with local organizations, employers, higher education institutions, and community stakeholders to ensure every graduating senior has a clear and actionable postsecondary plan. The effort creates a coordinated support network that helps students successfully transition to college, careers, military service, or other pathways aligned with their goals and aspirations.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish or strengthen ongoing partnerships with local businesses and community-led organizations that provide internships, mentorship, and career exploration opportunities, ensuring that these partnerships specifically focus on supporting students from diverse backgrounds and those living in low socioeconomic conditions.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment; Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through the Hibbing High School Career Academy, students are exploring healthcare careers through partnerships with local employers, healthcare providers, and postsecondary institutions. Efforts to strengthen the academy's healthcare pathway connect students with professionals from across the healthcare and dental fields, helping them understand the education, skills, and career opportunities available while creating clearer pathways into high-demand healthcare careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Rebuild and reestablish its healthcare career pathway track, with a focus on careers in the dental health and nursing workforces.
 - Engage in planning sessions to strengthen and grow the career academy and rebuild the healthcare career pathway track.

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Round 3 Funded Project Brief 1/5

Round 3 High Level Overview

- 10 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Dual Enrollment, Coursework, Employer Engagement, and General Development
- **Themes:** Work-Based Learning Model/Framework, Business/Employer Engagement, Scaling/Expanding Career Pathways, Convenings
- **Geographic Diversity:** Hennepin/Ramsey, Anoka/Dakota, Koochiching, Blue Earth, and Scott

Children's Defense Fund MN

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Designed to cultivate a diverse pipeline of future educators, the Junior Servant Leader Intern Program provides BIPOC high school students with paid summer internships focused on teaching, leadership development, and career exploration in education. Participants support K-8 students attending CDF Freedom Schools while gaining hands-on classroom experience, professional skills, and exposure to careers in the education field.
- **Proposal:**
 - Engage high school students in an immersive, paid internship program focused on education and leadership development.
 - Strengthen collaboration with Black Men Teach, RPS, HPS and additional education partners to create a sustainable talent pipeline.
 - Ensure that 100% of participating interns complete the summer program with hands-on teaching experience, professional mentorship, and leadership training, positioning them for future career success in education.

Disinvested Youth Gaming Initiative

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on expanding access to technology education and career opportunities, the Disinvested Youth Gaming Initiative uses esports as an entry point for underserved youth to develop digital skills, explore technology careers, and engage in hands-on learning experiences. By combining gaming, technology training, and professional development, the initiative helps prepare students from disinvested communities for high-demand careers in the digital economy.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create a fully functional DYGI app that establishes clear pathways to technology careers for young individuals interested in the gaming field.

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Foster Advocates

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, General development
- **Project Focus:** In partnership with Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Foster Advocates is coordinating college and career exploration events that connect current and former foster youth to career and technical education pathways, postsecondary planning resources, and college support services. Tailored for both high school and young adult participants, the events provide opportunities to explore career options, learn about dual enrollment and college programs, and access resources that support successful transitions into higher education and careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Execute a pilot practice model for high school to college pathway partnership focused on Fosters, informed by two events in partnership with MCTC
 - Expand relationships and communication among college staff and career-pathway professionals and foster-specific providers in schools and in the community.
 - Shift mental models for high-school, college, and community CTE and career pathways staff to be more Foster-informed and Foster-centered in their programming.

Fridley Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, General development
- **Project Focus:** To expand postsecondary opportunities for students, Fridley Public Schools is developing an Associate Degree Attainment Program available to students in grades 9–12. The initiative includes professional learning and partnership development with Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 and postsecondary institutions to strengthen program design, align strategic goals, and create pathways that support students in earning college credentials while still in high school.
- **Proposal:**
 - Participation in the Associate of Arts Institute and creation of an implementation plan for an Associate of Arts.
 - Implement two new concurrent enrollment courses in or before the 2026–2027 school year.
 - Put on a Family Engagement and Education Event to inform families and students about college and career pathways offered on campus at Fridley Public Schools.

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Hasting Public Schools (MN)

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening career-connected learning opportunities, Hastings High School is developing high-quality career pathways that combine career exploration, aligned coursework, and work-based learning experiences for students in grades 9–12. Partnerships with local businesses and educational institutions help students identify their strengths and interests while gaining relevant skills, industry exposure, and opportunities to earn credentials that support their future goals.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop a Career Pathways Plan.
 - Develop a Career Pathways Registration Guide for Students.

International Falls School District No. 361

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Responding to growing interest from students, families, and local employers, Falls High School is developing work-based learning opportunities that connect students to workforce development experiences, mentorship, and career exploration. Partnerships with local businesses, including Shannon's Inc., are helping create hands-on learning opportunities that build career skills, expand professional networks, and strengthen pathways to future employment.
- **Proposal:**
 - Meet the Minnesota Department of Education's expectations for launching a work-based learning (WBL) program and gain program approval.
 - Establish strong partnerships with community organizations, ensuring they are ready to welcome students in the fall, have established processes and procedures between the school and WBL partners for enrolling, monitoring and communicating as well as have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in making WBL a valuable teaching and learning opportunity.
 - Develop clear expectations for the Seminar class, finalize the curriculum, and order all necessary materials to support effective instruction.
 - Create a framework for the program that can be duplicated with other businesses/industries.

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Mankato Area Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** To expand career exploration opportunities for secondary students, MAPS is enhancing hands-on learning experiences and strengthening awareness of local career pathways through career forums and student internship programs. In response to student feedback, the initiative is piloting the Big Ideas trailer at both middle schools, providing interactive career-focused experiences that engage students early and connect them to future education and workforce opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Successfully pilot the Big Ideas trailer at both middle schools during 8th-grade career day, providing students with interactive, hands-on career exploration experiences in high-demand fields such as skilled trades and STEM.
 - Develop and distribute marketing materials (e.g., stickers, water bottles, shirts, window clings, and signs) created by entrepreneurship students to promote career forums and internship opportunities. These materials will increase awareness and participation among priority student populations.
 - Establish sustainable funding partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders to support ongoing implementation of the Big Ideas trailer and other career exploration activities, reducing dependency on grant and Perkins funding.

Minnesota Computers For Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Responding to growing demand for equitable access to STEM and IT opportunities, Minnesota Tech for Success is connecting students from cost-burdened households with industry professionals through a placement program and roundtable discussions involving leading employers such as Ecolab, Medtronic, Travelers, and Best Buy. The initiative helps students build professional networks, better understand STEM and IT career pathways, and identify the skills and resources needed to succeed in high-demand technology fields.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish the program with corporate partners for internships and employment placement.
 - Plan, recruit, and hold roundtables in the Metro area to discern what skills employers are looking for in a new hire.
 - Create an online platform to share program participants' resumes and cover letters with corporate partners for interview consideration.

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Mounds View Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Expanding on its existing career pathways program, Mounds View Public Schools is enhancing opportunities for students to explore careers through coursework aligned with industries such as automotive, business, construction, engineering and manufacturing, and liberal arts. The initiative also strengthens staff awareness of pathway offerings and industry needs while increasing access to flexible, career-connected learning experiences that can lead to college credit and future career opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create a Career Pathway program vision with a one, three and five-year rollout.
 - Implement a Professional Development day with high school deans and Career & Technical Ed teachers during the summer of 2025.

Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through a four-day educator externship, Shakopee Public Schools is connecting middle and high school teachers with local employers, community organizations, and cultural institutions to deepen their understanding of the region's economy, history, workforce, and tourism industries. Experiences with business, healthcare, public service, and tourism partners help educators strengthen career-connected learning and better support students as they navigate career pathway opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop a framework for teacher externships.
 - Build connections with community stakeholders and educators to grow career pathways.
 - Create opportunities for educators to strategically plan curriculum that will expand career pathways.

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Round 4 High Level Overview

- 13 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Coursework, Employer Engagement, Dual Enrollment, General Development
- **Themes:** Model/Framework. Scaling/Expanding Career Pathways
- **Geographic Diversity:** Blue Earth, Crow Wing, Cross Wing/Cass, Dakota, Hennepin, Twin Cities, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, St. Louis, Washington, Wright

Black, Educated, Successful, Thriving (B.E.S.T.) Young Male Enrichment Program

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Designed to support the long-term success of young Black male students, the B.E.S.T. (Black, Educated, Successful, Thriving) Young Male Enrichment Program provides a comprehensive career pathway model that combines career exploration, college preparation, academic support, life skills development, mentorship, health and wellness programming, and financial literacy. Serving youth ages 14–24, the program offers continuous, culturally responsive support from high school through postsecondary education and into the early stages of participants' careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Expand Career Pathway Programming for Black Male Scholars.
 - Establish or formalize new partnerships with local high schools, employers, & postsecondary institutions to expand access to real-world career exposure, mentorship opportunities, and relevant work-based learning experiences for scholars.

Breakthrough Twin Cities

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** In partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools, Breakthrough Twin Cities is piloting opportunities for students in the district's Education Pathway to gain hands-on teaching experience by working directly with younger students. Building on its tuition-free college preparatory program, the initiative supports career exploration in education while helping students apply their learning in real classroom settings and develop skills for future careers as educators.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish a partnership with Saint Paul Public Schools' Education Pathway to create a more in-depth mutually beneficial Grow Your Own Future Educators program.
 - Pilot the project with students in SPPS' Education Career Pathway.

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Brooklyn Center High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through the High Speed Connections initiative, a coalition of education, workforce, and industry partners is creating an IT career pathway for Brooklyn Center High School students that combines early career exposure, dual enrollment coursework, industry certifications, and internship opportunities. By connecting students—particularly BIPOC youth—to postsecondary partners and employers, the initiative is strengthening access to high-quality technology careers through coordinated education, training, and workforce development experiences.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish a cross-sector coalition to design and sustain BCCS's first IT pathway aligned with workforce needs and responsive to student interest.
 - Develop and implement dual enrollment IT courses, including an IT Exploration class and certification opportunities for 11th-12th graders, taught in partnership with Hennepin Technical College.
 - Host community forums to identify industry needs and inform program design, and provide students, especially BIPOC and low-income youth, with access to paid internships and workforce experiences through partners like Genesys Works and GPS Education Partners

Independent School District #ISD 191 (Burnsville Public Schools)

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Aligned with Burnsville Public Schools' Board-approved K-12 career pathways framework, this effort is strengthening career-connected learning experiences that help students explore interests, build skills, and connect classroom learning to future opportunities. By increasing intentional career exploration and engagement throughout elementary and middle school, the initiative supports a seamless, student-centered pathway that prepares every learner for success in college, careers, or both.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop a comprehensive Pathways Rebranding Package.
 - Community-Aligned Pathways Redesign and Expansion
 - Stakeholder Engagement & Implementation Framework

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Mankato Area Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, General development, Employer Engagement
- **Project Focus:** Expanding access to career-connected learning, Mankato Area Public Schools is growing its Geometry in ACTION course, an interdisciplinary program that allows ninth-grade students to earn both geometry and introductory construction credit through the construction of full-scale sheds. By combining rigorous academics with hands-on learning and mentorship from local contractors, the program strengthens industry connections, supports career exploration, and provides students with meaningful exposure to careers in the skilled trades.
- **Proposal:**
 - Students in the Geometry in ACTION course will have build sheds, which will be donated to the Minnesota River Builders Association (MRBA) to be sold or raffled at community events.
 - Successfully transition Geometry in ACTION to a two-period block model at both East and West High Schools, increasing capacity to serve more students and allowing for deeper integration of academic and career learning.
 - Formalize and grow new industry or community partnerships (e.g., suppliers, contractors, or nonprofits) to support materials, mentorship, or visibility for the program.
 - Leverage the success of the Geometry in ACTION course to develop a district-level framework for expanding alternative pathways to graduation credit

Peace in Practice

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Expanding its network across the Twin Cities, Peace in Practice is strengthening partnerships with studios, fitness centers, YMCAs, YWCAs, and other wellness organizations to create clearer pathways from training to employment for aspiring wellness professionals. The initiative also supports the development of a dual-enrollment yoga teacher training program with North Community High School and Concordia College, providing students with college-credit coursework, practicum experience, industry connections, and access to career opportunities in the growing wellness sector.
- **Proposal:**
 - Build a network of employers in the yoga/health and wellness fields who can provide overall guidance and insights on developing internship opportunities for students and/or career opportunities.
 - Demonstrate the skills and readiness of program graduates to employers through community practice events, guest teaching opportunities, and public visibility efforts.

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Project Success

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Advancing career opportunities in the skilled trades, Project Success is developing an HVAC career pathway at Central High School in Mankato that combines dual-credit coursework with hands-on learning experiences in a high-demand industry. Drawing on lessons from successful healthcare and solar energy pathway programs, the initiative is fostering new partnerships with HVAC employers while creating clear connections between secondary education, postsecondary credentials, and workforce opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Successfully launch the HVAC program at Central High School.
 - Students will earn dual college credits and a certification in HVAC fundamentals.
 - Establish connections between students and local HVAC employers, providing mentorship, internships, and job shadowing opportunities.

St. Louis Park High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Designed to connect literacy, academic achievement, and career exploration, the Communications Technology Career Pathway engages students in real-world coursework in journalism, digital media, video production, and mass communications while creating opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. Partnerships with North Hennepin Community College, Hennepin Technical College, KARE 11, and the Minnesota Broadcasters Association provide students with dual enrollment opportunities, mentorship, job shadowing, and industry exposure, helping build equitable pathways into high-demand communications and media careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Redesign English courses into a Communications Technology Pathway focused on writing, storytelling, media production, and digital literacy.
 - Engage students in real-world, career-connected learning with field experiences, internships, and media production projects.
 - Close achievement gaps in reading and writing by connecting academic skills to meaningful, creative work.

Building a Movement

Round 4 Funded Project Brief 5/6

Stillwater Area High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, General development
- **Project Focus:** Responding to growing student demand for college-level learning opportunities, this initiative is expanding dual enrollment options that provide rigorous coursework in a supportive high school environment. By increasing access to college credit opportunities on campus, the effort helps more students engage in postsecondary coursework, achieve strong academic outcomes, and pursue equitable pathways to college and career success.
- **Proposal:**
 - Facilitate teachers completing graduate coursework to meet credentialing standards for CE instruction.
 - Increase student enrollment in MnTC/AA courses.
 - Distribute early college credit educational materials to eligible students and their families

The Karen Organization of Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Informed by ongoing conversations with community members, Karen Organization of Minnesota is strengthening career exploration and workforce development opportunities for Karen youth by connecting them with professionals, industry experiences, and career role models. The initiative helps address barriers to career exposure by coordinating mentorship opportunities, field trips, and community partnerships that expand students' awareness of educational and career pathways while building connections to successful Karen professionals and the broader workforce community.
- **Proposal:**
 - Career Exposure: Facilitate 15 job shadowing experiences and 10 guest speaker sessions with local professionals (aligned with youth career interests) to increase workforce readiness.
 - 85% of the youth participating will report expanded career awareness in post-activity surveys.
 - Experiential Learning: Provide 10 underserved youth with access to STEM camps, summer college immersion programs (e.g., dorm-life experiences), or internships.

Building a Movement

Round 4 Funded Project Brief 6/6

World Savvy, Inc.

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, General development
- **Project Focus:** Expanding on its nationally recognized Career Academies model, Alexandria Public Schools is extending career pathway opportunities into the middle grades to create a seamless 6–12 continuum of career-connected learning. Through rigorous coursework, dual credit opportunities, internships, hands-on experiences, and strong partnerships with local employers and Alexandria Technical & Community College, the initiative helps students explore career interests, develop industry-relevant skills, and prepare for postsecondary success.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop a 7th grade capstone course framework & scope/sequence.
 - Develop a career pathways implementation playbook.
 - Execute a cross-sector convening.

Independent School District 728

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through a partnership with Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, Elk River High School's House Build Construction Program is providing students with hands-on experience in the construction trades through a real-world residential building project. The initiative combines industry-based learning with mentorship and collaboration, drawing on proven models and best practices to help students develop technical skills, explore construction careers, and prepare for future workforce opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Deliver a rigorous, hands-on CTE curriculum.
 - Create a model career pathway for skilled trades.

Building a Movement



Round 5 Funded Project Brief 1/8

Round 5 High Level Overview

- 16 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Coursework, Employer Engagement, Dual Enrollment, General Development
- **Themes:**
- **Geographic Diversity:** Blue Earth, Dakota, Douglas, Hennepin, Nicollet, Olmsted, Ramsey, Washington, Watonwan

Athletes Committed to Educating Students

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General development
- **Project Focus:** Centered on elevating career exploration and readiness in the middle grades, ACES is designing and implementing a Career Pathways Framework that more intentionally integrates career-connected learning into its programming. The framework supports equitable and sustainable pathways that amplify youth voice, foster informed career decision-making, and connect students to high-wage, high-demand career opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Conduct career pathways research, including a literature review, perspectives report, and good practice guide.
 - Strengthen partner engagement and collaboration.
 - Increase organizational capacity for career connected learning.

Construction Careers Foundation

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through the WeBuild Initiative, education and industry partners are creating a structured pathway that helps high school students explore and pursue careers in construction. By combining hands-on learning, mentorship, work-based experiences, and strong employer partnerships, the initiative provides ongoing opportunities that build career awareness, skill development, and connections to long-term education and employment opportunities in the construction industry.
- **Proposal:**
 - Pilot and expand WeBuild events.
 - Develop and launch a mentorship program.
 - Integrate student voice in program design.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 2/8

Environmental Initiative

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Coordinated by Environmental Initiative, the Collaborative Pathways Coalition brings together environmental organizations, youth-serving nonprofits, educators, and equity partners to expand access to environmental careers for BIPOC and underserved youth. Guided by community engagement, youth input, and statewide research, the coalition is advancing inclusive career pathways through hands-on learning experiences, mentorship, professional networking, and coordinated efforts that connect young people to education and employment opportunities in the environmental sector.
- **Proposal:**
 - Launch dual-credit CTE courses with local colleges.
 - Implement Work-Based Learning (WBL) electives co-taught with an industry partner.
 - Create a Sustainable Career Pathways Framework and partnership toolkit

Exploration High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through a cross-sector partnership with higher education institutions, industry partners, and community organizations, Exploration High School is expanding equitable college and career pathways for students through dual-credit Career and Technical Education coursework and work-based learning experiences. Collaborations with community college faculty and industry partners create integrated opportunities for students to earn college credit, engage in rigorous career-focused coursework, and gain authentic workplace experience that supports future academic and career success.
- **Proposal:**
 - Host high-quality trainings for coalition members.
 - Establish meaningful connections with new high schools, colleges, corporations, and/or nonprofit organizations.
 - Collaborate to secure expertise and funding to ensure coalition members are equipped to deliver high-impact, youth-serving pathways programs.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 3/8

Farmington Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General development
- **Project Focus:** As Farmington High School reimagines how students prepare for life after graduation, the district is strengthening connections among students, families, educators, employers, and community partners to build a sustainable career pathways system. The initiative includes the development of a Career Pathways Guide, website, and promotional materials that increase awareness of pathway opportunities and help students navigate education and career options aligned to their interests and goals.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create a Career Pathway Guide.
 - Engage in Career Pathway website development.
 - Create Career Pathway Posters/Banners for classrooms and hallways in a variety of languages with QR codes.

Hopkins Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** To support the development of high-quality career pathways, Hopkins Public Schools is strengthening the industry partnership infrastructure that connects employers, educators, and community organizations across its Ford Next Generation Learning academies and CDF Freedom Schools programs. By creating stronger alignment between school-year and summer learning experiences, the initiative is building a coordinated system that expands career exploration, workforce connections, and future career pathway opportunities for students.
- **Proposal:**
 - Support Ford NGL-facilitated partnership design sessions.
 - Expand industry partnerships.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 4/8

Madelia Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** To strengthen alignment across career-connected learning opportunities, the district is supporting a Coordinator of Pathway Alignment who is leading efforts to redesign the course handbook and build cross-sector partnerships that expand equitable career pathways. The work increases access to dual enrollment, rigorous coursework, and meaningful work-based learning experiences while creating stronger connections between education, industry, and community partners.
- **Proposal:**
 - Redesign the academic course handbook (digital & print versions).
 - Create a Career Pathways Map and Visual Framework.
 - Expand the Work-Based Learning Program.

Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General development
- **Project Focus:** Serving as a regional connector among students, educators, and employers, the K12 Navigator provides a centralized platform for exploring career pathways, training programs, and work-based learning opportunities. By helping schools and industry partners better align resources and opportunities, the initiative strengthens connections between classroom learning and high-demand careers while creating more accessible and equitable pathways for student success.
- **Proposal:**
 - Redesign the K12 navigator website.
 - Engage in a targeted marketing campaign.
 - Conduct a school survey and subsequent feedback report.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 5/8

Minnesota Chamber Foundation

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Expanding the Minnesota Chamber Foundation's Business Education Network (BEN), this employer-led initiative is strengthening connections between students and high-demand careers through targeted convenings, industry engagement, and hands-on learning experiences. By bringing educators and employers together around regional workforce needs, the program helps align career exploration and workforce development efforts while increasing access to meaningful, career-connected pathways for students.
- **Proposal:**
 - Build cross sector relationships and partnerships.
 - Have a program launch and/or implementation.

Pillsbury United Communities

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening workforce connections in high-demand industries, the Career Pathways team is expanding and deepening partnerships with employers in healthcare, construction, and information technology. These collaborations help create clearer transitions from education and training to employment by increasing students' access to industry engagement, career-connected learning experiences, and workforce opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Conduct a formal Employer Engagement Strategy.
 - Sign new Memoranda of Understandings with area employer partners.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 6/8

Rochester Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Through a partnership with CVS Health, Rochester Public Schools is establishing a pharmacy technician career pathway that addresses regional healthcare workforce needs while expanding access to high-demand healthcare careers. The initiative combines dual enrollment opportunities, industry-aligned coursework, and work-based learning experiences to help students build skills, earn credentials, and transition into healthcare support careers and postsecondary education.
- **Proposal:**
 - Complete development on a comprehensive Pharmacy Technician Curriculum.
 - Execute a formal employee Partnership Agreement.
 - Finalize teacher certification and program launch Readiness.

Science Museum of Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Led by the Science Museum of Minnesota, Preparing the Future of Work brings together employers, youth-serving organizations, and workforce partners to advance equitable STEM career pathways through out-of-school-time programs. Through a cross-sector working group, participants are developing strategies for translating industry STEM skills and content into culturally responsive learning experiences, while creating resources that can be shared broadly to strengthen STEM workforce development efforts across the field.
- **Proposal:**
 - Convene a cross-sector working groups.
 - Document and synthesize learning from seven months of collaboration.
 - Produce and disseminate 'Preparing the Future of Work: A Collaborative Toolkit'.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 7/8

South Central Service Cooperative

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** In partnership with the Minnesota Indigenous Workforce Initiative, South Central Service Cooperative is launching the Indigenous Career Pathways Partnership Initiative to develop a culturally grounded, Indigenous-led career pathways model for Minnesota. By bringing together tribal high schools, workforce organizations, postsecondary institutions, and employers, the initiative is strengthening cross-sector collaboration to create career pathways that reflect Native identity, values, and sovereignty while expanding educational and workforce opportunities for Indigenous students.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish MOUs among tribal high schools, youth-serving workforce programs, and employers.
 - Collaboratively develop a career pathways framework and implementation roadmap.
 - Secure employer commitments to offer internships, job-shadowing, or apprenticeship opportunities for Indigenous students.

Southeast Service Cooperative

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Positioned to strengthen Minnesota's MedTech talent pipeline, BETA is formalizing partnerships among K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and employers while establishing shared governance, data systems, and continuous improvement processes. The initiative is also developing a scalable implementation model that can be expanded to additional schools and industry partners, creating a replicable framework for equitable career pathways in high-demand, high-wage sectors and supporting the region's long-term workforce capacity.
- **Proposal:**
 - Lead the development and signing of MOUs between pilot school districts and ecosystem partners.
 - Create a detailed, field-tested framework for BETA that outlines the dual-credit structure, hybrid delivery model, student support system, and internship design.
 - Convene the multi-sector Advisory Committee quarterly for the first year to establish governance, review pilot data, and implement continuous improvement for equity and recruitment strategies.

Building a Movement

Round 5 Funded Project Brief 8/8

St. Paul Area Chamber

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Facilitated by the St. Paul Area Chamber, this initiative is convening employers, schools, and community partners to design, pilot, and refine a shared framework for career pathway collaboration. Through structured feedback, continuous improvement, and stronger coordination among partners, the effort is creating a sustainable, employer-informed approach that strengthens industry-school partnerships, expands high-quality career exploration opportunities, and supports more effective talent pipeline development across the region.
- **Proposal:**
 - Co-design one clear, replicable Employer - School Engagement framework to be adopted by participating districts.
 - Conduct/manage stakeholder convenings to design and create framework.
 - Use feedback from pilot implementation to drive continuous improvement and sustainability plan.

Stillwater Area High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Designed to support the launch and long-term sustainability of a new healthcare pathway, this initiative is developing curriculum, expanding student access to hands-on learning experiences, and strengthening alignment with state and postsecondary standards. Through strategic partnerships and a focus on equitable student recruitment, the program is creating a scalable model for healthcare career preparation that will continue to grow through integration into existing high school coursework and career pathway systems.
- **Proposal:**
 - Expand Healthcare Program of Study with Bethel Endorsement & CNA.
 - Increase Access for Priority Student Populations.
 - Strengthen Employer Engagement & Work-Based Learning.

Building a Movement



Round 6 Funded Project Brief 1/7

Round 6 High Level Overview

- 13 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Coursework, Employer Engagement, Dual Enrollment, General Development
- **Themes:**
- **Geographic Diversity:** Cass, Crow Wing, Dakota, Hennepin, Mankato, Ramsey, Rice, Stearns, Winona

Bloomington Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through a one-year pilot initiative, Bloomington Public Schools is revitalizing Career and Technical Education advisory committees to create a sustainable and equity-centered approach to employer engagement and career pathway development. Focusing on the Trades & Industry and Business & Marketing pathways, the committees are bringing together industry and education partners to strengthen program relevance, expand work-based learning opportunities, and ensure students have access to rigorous coursework aligned with workforce needs.
- **Proposal:**
 - Pilot a consistent advisory model in Trades & Industry pathway area.
 - Pilot a consistent advisory model in Business & Marketing pathway area.
 - Establish a student advisory group and run structured student feedback cycles that inform committee agendas.

Brainerd Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on expanding equitable career opportunities for students with cognitive disabilities, this initiative is strengthening a specialized career pathway aligned with the Human Services pathway at Brainerd High School. Through a structured sequence of academic coursework, employability skill development, and authentic service-learning experiences, students engage in a multi-year pathway that prepares them for postsecondary education, training, and competitive integrated employment while supporting steady skill development over time.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create a fully developed, inclusive career pathway for students with cognitive disabilities that clearly outlines how students move from skill development to service learning and career readiness.
 - Develop multiple structured career-connected service learning experiences that target communication, task completion, teamwork, and self-regulation skills.
 - Create a long-term, scalable pathway system that includes defined employability skill indicators, simple data collection tools, and progress reflection templates.

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 2/7

Cass Lake-Bena High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening and expanding high-quality career pathways, this initiative integrates dual-enrollment opportunities, rigorous career-focused coursework, employer engagement, and coordinated pathway development to support student success. By connecting secondary education, postsecondary credit attainment, and real-world work experiences, the effort creates a coherent learning journey that aligns with regional workforce needs and helps students prepare for future education and career opportunities.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish a career academy program with four career pathways.
 - Formalize employer partnerships where students are involved in job shadows, internships, and work experiences.
 - Create sustainable systems for dual enrollment, allowing students to earn industry certifications and work experiences.

Hmong American Partnership

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Through its Culturally Responsive Allied Health Pathways Convening Series, Hmong American Partnership is bringing together schools, employers, and community partners to strengthen healthcare career pathways for Hmong and Southeast Asian high school students. Centered on student voice and cross-sector collaboration, the initiative is improving alignment among K-12 education, work-based learning experiences, and postsecondary credential opportunities to expand access to careers in the high-demand healthcare field.
- **Proposal:**
 - Host employer-school convenings focused on healthcare pathways.
 - Obtain job shadowing commitments from allied health employers for high school students.
 - Develop a culturally responsive job shadow framework and implementation roadmap that can be replicated across schools, employers, and career pathways.

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 3/7

ISD 287 (Plymouth)

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Expanding access to college credit and career-focused learning opportunities, this initiative is adding concurrent enrollment offerings in Automotive Technology, Auto Body, and Outdoor Power Sports through a partnership with Hennepin Technical College. The collaboration supports instructor certification, strengthens alignment between high school and postsecondary programs, and creates additional pathways for students to earn college credit while gaining skills in high-demand transportation and technical career fields.
- **Proposal:**
 - Expand concurrent enrollment offerings to include Automotive Technology, Auto Body, and Outdoor Power Sports classes by January of 2027.
 - Create a "Concurrent Enrollment Best Practices Handbook" to be shared with intermediate district and CTE center staff.
 - Collaborate with the three other intermediate districts to share our model of concurrent enrollment.

Mankato Area Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through educator externships and targeted professional development, Mankato Area Public Schools is strengthening the connection between classroom instruction and workforce needs while expanding career-connected learning opportunities for students. The initiative supports skill development in construction, manufacturing, and design, advances Career and Technical Education instructional capacity, enhances student-led business experiences, and builds stronger transition supports for students with the greatest needs.
- **Proposal:**
 - Facilitate instructors completing intensive industry immersion, three of which will be documented toward the work-experience requirements for CTE licensure in Construction.
 - Transition the West High School store from a service-based model to a production-based model, creating and selling student-produced apparel using industrial embroidery and DTF technology.
 - Develop and implement a "Readiness to Work" system at the Futures Level 4 EBD site, resulting in students transitioning into paid, industry-based placements with local partners.

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 4/7

Rocori Secondary School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Focused on long-term sustainability and continuous improvement, this initiative is strengthening internal systems that support high-quality career pathways through employer-informed program design, shared graduate outcomes, and consistent improvement practices. By aligning pathway experiences across classrooms, the effort helps ensure career-connected learning remains rigorous, equitable, coherent, and responsive to student and workforce needs over time.
- **Proposal:**
 - Identify opportunity areas and outline clear next steps to strengthen instructional coherence, equitable access, employer alignment, and student experience.
 - Design, test, and refine high-leverage pathway improvements identified through the diagnostic process.
 - Establish leadership routines, data review protocols, and structured student feedback systems that enable ongoing pathway refinement beyond the grant.

Sourcewell

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** In partnership with M State and regional healthcare providers, Sourcewell is launching a regional Health Science Academy that gives students access to dual-credit coursework in Introduction to Health Careers and Medical Terminology, along with hands-on experiences at local healthcare facilities. Supported by employers including Essentia, CRMC, and Astera, the initiative is expanding healthcare career exploration opportunities, strengthening HOSA participation, and increasing access to high-quality health science pathways for students across the region.
- **Proposal:**
 - Debut the Introduction to Health Careers course.
 - Debut the Medical Terminology course.
 - Establish at least 3 more HOSA chapters.

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 5/7

South Central Service Cooperative

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Through a partnership among South Central Service Cooperative, member school districts, Minnesota State University, Mankato, and regional business and industry partners, Minnesota's Rural Experiential STEM Education Partnership Initiative (RESEPI) is expanding access to robotics and STEM learning opportunities for students in rural communities. The initiative strengthens career pathways by connecting hands-on STEM experiences with postsecondary education and industry engagement, helping students build skills aligned with future careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Proposal:**
 - Send teachers to train-the-trainer workshops at Minnesota State University.
 - Integrate XRP open-source curriculum into their programming.
 - Authorize industry liaisons and MSU student teachers to participate in student mentorship and coaching.

The JK Movement

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening employer engagement and expanding work-based learning opportunities, this initiative is building a coordinated career pathways system that connects high school coursework, college credit opportunities, and real-world employment experiences. Drawing on JKM's established earn-and-learn model, the effort creates sustainable, career-connected pathways that help students develop skills, gain industry experience, and transition successfully into postsecondary education and the workforce.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish formal partnership agreements with defined roles, shared outcomes, and structured work-based learning commitments.
 - Recruit and serve a cohort from the historically under-resourced communities of Rondo and immediately surrounding areas to the geographic "corridor".

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 6/7

Tridistrict CAPS

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment, Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Through a collaborative partnership among Simley, South St. Paul, and Two Rivers High Schools, TriDistrict CAPS provides students with career-focused learning experiences in fields such as business, information technology, healthcare, natural resources, and the skilled trades. Strong industry partnerships support opportunities for mentorships, internships, college credit, and hands-on learning while helping students develop the communication, professionalism, networking, and other durable skills that are increasingly valued by employers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Implement program review meetings.
 - Implement Business Networking Luncheons.

United South Central School District

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences, General development
- **Project Focus:** Focused on strengthening connections between education, career exploration, and local workforce opportunities, United South Central School District is developing a comprehensive, family-facing Career Pathways Framework that helps students plan for their future from grades 9–12. Central to this effort is a digital Career Pathways Registration Guide that maps coursework, graduation requirements, electives, dual enrollment, and college credit opportunities to specific career pathways, providing students and families with clear information about how academic choices support postsecondary and career goals.
- **Proposal:**
 - Launch a digital career pathways registration guide.
 - Develop pathway maps aligned to existing courses and local workforce opportunities.
 - Identify and document partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

Building a Movement

Round 6 Funded Project Brief 7/7

Winona Public Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Coursework, Employer engagement/work experiences
- **Project Focus:** Guided by student and family feedback, Winona Area Public Schools' Forging a Future initiative is strengthening and aligning career exploration, Career and Technical Education coursework, dual-credit opportunities, internships, and work-based learning into a cohesive career pathways system. Building on recent program expansion and the establishment of a CTE Advisory Council, the initiative is creating more structured and connected experiences that help students prepare for postsecondary education, meaningful careers, and long-term success after graduation.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop a community-informed Profile of a Winona Graduate that defines the knowledge, skills, and dispositions students need to thrive in college, careers, and community life.
 - Implement a strategic framework that aligns curriculum, instruction, and work-based learning with employer-informed competencies.
 - Activate the Profile within teaching and learning, support cross-sector collaboration, and maintain ongoing community engagement.