



CAREER PATHWAYS

*Launch Your Future Today*

## Project Overview

Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) is a rural career and technical education (CTE) pathway initiative with the purpose of rebuilding CTE in southwest and west central Minnesota. The goal of LYFT Career Pathways is for every student in grades 7-12 across the region to gain marketable skills through meaningful CTE courses and opportunities, which lead to further education and careers that match our region's labor market needs.



**Service Area:** To be eligible for funding, schools must be a member of SWWC. All rural Service Cooperatives have Rural CTE Consortium funding, so if you are not an SWWC member please check with your region's Service Cooperative.



**Funding:** LYFT is funded through a state-wide \$3 million Rural Career and Technical Education (CTE) Consortium Grant, which was passed by the Minnesota Legislature.



**Types of Projects:** LYFT funds can be used to develop job shadowing programs, internships, apprenticeships, summer camps, weekend career experiences, industry tours, comprehensive career guidance programs, new CTE courses, or other innovative ideas that advance CTE.



**Grant Criteria:** All projects must include at least **one high school** and **one business partner**. They must help address local and **regional labor market needs**. Students must have **hands-on learning** opportunities and the project must be **sustainable** after the first year of LYFT Career Pathways funding.



**Application Assistance:** Technical assistance and grant review services are available from LYFT Career Pathways staff and from the three regional development commissions.



**Funded Project Examples:** Pharmacy Technician, Aquaculture, Automotive Technology, Nursing Assistant, Engineering, Manufacturing, Information Technology, Culinary, Aviation, Medical Careers, Entrepreneurship and more.

[www.LYFTpathways.org/projects](http://www.LYFTpathways.org/projects)



**Partnership:** The LYFT Career Pathways initiative is supported by a broad partnership of organizations, colleges, schools, and businesses, including Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, DEED, Glacial Lakes Adult Basic Education, Mid-Minnesota Development Commission, Mid-Minnesota Carl Perkins Consortium, Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Legislature, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium, Ridgewater College, Southwest Adult Basic Education, SW MN Private Industry Council, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Southwest Minnesota State University, Southwest Regional Development Commission, SWWC and its member schools, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, and regional businesses.

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