



CTE Advisory Committee – May 14, 2019 - Meeting NOTES

In Attendance: Bruce Bergeson, Paul Carlson, Eric Day, Eriann Faris, Matt Fewerborn, Theresa Ireland, Ryan Luft, Scott Marquardt, Jessica Miller, Jay Trusty, Donn Winckler, Gail Polejewski, Tom Hoff, Lisa Gregoire, Cheryl Glaeser

Meeting Objectives...

- Share and reflect on the projects and efforts funded thus far through LYFT
- Gather your insights on evaluating our efforts and project outcomes
- Explore additional ways to fulfill our goals and the requirements of the legislative funding

Welcome, Introductions and Updates

SWWC/Other Updates

LYFT Pathways Video – Adv Committee viewed the LYFT Video - (View at:

<https://www.lyftpathways.org/Page/39>) Several members commented on the value of the video and the need for a social media campaign to get it out there.

LYFT Workshops – 3 Workshops were held across the region (Appleton, Litchfield, Balaton).

Attendance was lower than hoped for due to winter weather, yet over 80 attendees were gathered to explore opportunities in their schools/communities. Workshops initiated discussions that have evolved into at least 10 potential LYFT Pathways CTE projects.

LYFT Work to Date – Approximately 35% of the original \$3 million in grant funding is estimated to be expended by the end of fiscal year 2019. 24 LYFT Pathways CTE projects have been funded to date, with a few that are under review, and several more in process by applicants. The projects funded to date primarily focus on developing shared hybrid courses that are projected to be serving nearly 700 students by the end of 2019. Courses are in the following areas:

- Aquaculture (1)
- Automotive (2)
- Aviation/Drone Technology (2)
- Child Care (1)
- Construction/CAD/Architecture/Electrical/Plumbing/HVAC (3)
- Culinary/Food Service/Food Nutrition (3)
- Energy (1)
- Entrepreneurship/Business (2)
- Intro to Education (1)
- IT/Networking (2)
- Manufacturing/Engineering/ (2)
- Medical
 - CNA/Nursing Assistant (4)
 - Medical Careers (5)
 - Pharmacy Technician (1)
- Transportation/CDL (1)
- Video Production/Marketing (1)

In addition, LYFT funds have supported efforts to aide in project development and build the capacity for sustained CTE in the region. Efforts included support for:

- MN River Valley CTE Collaborative structure and expansion
- SWPIC – Expanding Work-based Learning Programs through Career Pathway Navigators
- Technical Assistance for developing school-business partnerships
- Tours and presentations with out-of-region/state groups looking to replicate the program

Legislative work – Advisory Committee members were asked at the last meeting to identify legislative asks that would help these efforts. Several ideas emerged and were brought to legislators this session including:

- Supporting the vocational enrichment legislation that would provide funds to offer career and technical (vocational) programs in the summer or on weekends.
- Adding full travel reimbursement to the local CTE Levy Legislation.
- Extending the CTE Licensure Exemption Legislation to 2022.
- Maintaining currently Tier 1-4 Licensure rules.

Foundation for Innovation in Education - SWWC staff informed the Committee of the formation of a Foundation that has been established to support innovative learning in the region. The Foundation for Innovation in Education's mission is to enhance collaborative efforts to enrich innovative learning opportunities for E-12 students in southwest and west central Minnesota. A Board of Directors has been formed who, along with SWWC staff, have been establishing the formation, policies and procedures of the Foundation. The Foundation is able to accept contributions.

Other Updates:

CTE Opportunities for Grades 7 and 8 – Tom Hoff shared that there is increased interest in expanding CTE efforts down to the lower levels of post-secondary, which includes grades 7 and 8. SWWC is looking at the Learning Blade STEM project, a high quality supplemental curriculum that is focused on offering students real world learning experiences in STEM education by providing student-ready, interactive missions that show STEM careers in the context of solving people and community-centered problems.

Tom also shared the efforts of Jackson Middle School who is offering a 10-day mini class for grades 7/8 that is project-based and engages business in areas such as plumbing, welding, food truck, and more.

The Committee commented in agreement with the need to reach out to students at younger ages to expose them to potential jobs/career pathways.

Review/reflection on LYFT-funded Projects; What You're Seeing in the Region

The committee's discussions highlighted the successes we're seeing thus far and also pointed out some non-LYFT funded CTE efforts taking place in the region. They noted that collaboration looks different across the region and in some areas, it is between business/industry and the local school. There was some discussion of how we might lift up these efforts as examples of success even though they may not be LYFT-funded.

It was noted that efforts are still largely tied to "courses", indicating that education often begins with what they know. We need to continue to encourage creative, innovative options such as remote learning, out-of-school tours, and work-based learning opportunities.

To learn from the successes in the region, the committee discussed reaching out to entities to inquire who they brought to the table, the timing of when they came together, and the roles each played in the success of the project.

Evaluating Our Efforts

Review of Evaluations Methods/Measurements

The committee reviewed current evaluation methods/measurements that identify our outcomes and impact, noting that we are capturing the right information. Applicants are required to submit **mid-term and final reports** that capture the following:

- Activities to date
- Funds expended
- # of students served
- Student evaluation of project
- Certifications/College credit acquired
- Business partner involvement/assessment of project
- Parent awareness of project/career opportunities
- Strongest features/biggest challenges
- Potential changes for the future
- Sustaining – future offering
- Recommendations for Legislature

In addition, SWWC submits Annual Legislative Reports that highlight the following:

- # of applications/projects/students served
- Types of projects/CTE experiences
- Ways we are creating awareness
- Lessons learned
- Barriers to overcome
- Budget Summary

Committee Thoughts on Current Efforts/Measures of Success:

- Student experiences are building their skills and helping them make connections in the region
- There is much stronger business engagement and businesses are beginning to build their confidence as “teachers”. We need to check in with businesses again to evaluate their experience and how we’re meeting their needs or not.
- The funding in the region is pushing conversations and problem-solving.
- We’re creating a healthy competition that is opening up creativity and innovation in the region.

Committee Thoughts on Barriers/Challenges:

- Staff/teacher buy-in due to fear of job change or loss
- School schedules – difficult to get out of traditional schedules to be truly creative in delivery of CTE opportunities, especially outside of school
- Communications – can be improved, using social media and communicating with other stakeholders
- The challenge of focusing on credit verses experience for students
- There was some discussion of our ability to measure career and college readiness and identifying what careers/jobs students actually pursue after their CTE experiences. The Committee mentioned looking into using existing LMS systems, exploring opportunities through MDE, and business surveys to see if any students are now employed. The Committee also discussed the potential for hiring a professional evaluator, indicating that there is value in professional, third-party evaluation.

What's Next... Additional Insights for Reaching Goals

Review of Legislative Funding

Purpose/Requirements of funding:

- Voluntary collaboration, course development, new CTE programs, improved access for students, increased family & student awareness
- Capital start-up costs for equipment, with prior approval from MDE; no building, site or grounds acquisitions, or expansions allowed

Discussion of additional needs/work that LYFT might support

When asked, "What additional actions might we take that will build upon our work (and the successes we're seeing) as we work toward building a sustainable CTE system?"...

- Encouraging/supporting Jr. High Experiences
- Communications – Increased focus on sharing success stories
- Helping students build portfolios of experiences verses course lists
- Encourage project-based Learning that focuses on transferable skills
- Increased collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development
 - Helping students understand local market; skills needed
- Remote project learning between schools where distance is a factor in collaboration

Closing Reflections/Next Steps

College Vs Career

The Committee discussed the shift from asking students what college they will be attending to what they will be doing, reflecting on the various "pathways" that are options including job apprenticeships, 2-year college, and 4-year college. We need ALL of the above. Helping students find what fits them best and shifting from language that may indicate a "lifetime" choice may help students (and parents) understand that pathways are a "journey not a destination".

What is Most Needed

When asked what next steps we might take that would make the most difference...

- Social Media Campaign – push the video/success stories/other CTE awareness
- Employer/Business Focused Round Tables (Collaborate with Econ Dev/Chambers)
- Developing replicable "models" – off the shelf based on successes
- Mini Grants for smaller amounts with more straight-forward access to funds

Sustainability

Glaeser shared a collective document that highlights the Committee's conversations pertaining to sustaining these efforts into the future. Committee members will be sent a copy of the document and asked to provide reflections prior to our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Expect Fall of 2019

