



January 2019 Update to Advisory Committee

LYFT Pathways Workshops: Beginning in February there will be four LYFT Pathways workshops being held throughout the region (Litchfield, Appleton, Balaton, Jackson). The purpose of the workshops is to increase awareness about LYFT Pathways to schools, business, economic development agencies, public officials and community members. The workshops will feature labor market data, presentations from current LYFT Pathways funded projects, and a time for participants to identify potential partners and projects that will provide CTE experiences to students in their community. A number of LYFT Pathway Advisory Committee members have been involved in the development of these workshops. For more information and to register, visit the LYFT website at www.LYFTpathways.org.

Growth of LYFT Pathways Programs: There have been about 20 LYFT Pathway applications to date, with several still in the review process. We anticipate, that we will serve (conservatively) about 600 students this year through LYFT projects! That is up from 15 students served during the 2016-17 school year. Your work as partners and the LYFT Pathways initiative are making a difference. But, change is not easy and we are just at the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the impact we can have for students. To see a summary of the current funded projects go to the www.LYFTpathway.org site and look under the Regional Projects tab. Medical Careers continues to be the area for the most growth, but I think there will be a surge of Introduction to Education programs starting over the next year.

LYFT Pathways Presentations: There are too many to remember and the requests keep coming in! So far LYFT Pathways staff and partners have presented at MREA, Minnesota CTE Works!, school board meetings, South Dakota Department of Education, Minnesota State Chancellor's Listening Sessions, Community Service Director meetings, economic development agency meetings, MELT Conference, and in a few weeks the Minnesota ACT Conference. If you are ever asked to talk about LYFT on short notice you can download a previous presentation from the LYFT website under "Resources" or contact me and I can send you the most recent presentation.

New Promotional Video: The first video that was produced by Pioneer Public Television was very successful and well received. We are currently working with Blue Key Media on two new videos. One will be a companion to a formal LYFT Pathways presentation which will focus mostly on student, school and business testimonials. The other will be a stand-alone video that will include overview information about LYFT



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Pathways and a call to action. We will be showcasing the videos at the upcoming workshops before we push it out on our website and through social media. The video will also be part of our MDE and Legislative report.

Minnesota River Valley CTE Collaborative Career Guide: In preparation for the Collaborative's Career Fair on February 13, a comprehensive guide has been produced that will help students and parents to see the unique CTE course that are available to them. We will make sure you get a hard copy at the next Advisory Meeting. There will also be an online version of the guide. The Minnesota River Valley CTE Collaborative has now grown from the one Medical Careers class serving 15 students to 13 courses available to the five partnering schools in 2019-20. This school year they will serve over 100 students through this collaborative delivery model. One of the classes that is just emerging through this partnership is the Industrial Construction Techniques course that will be offered on-site at Fagen, Inc. in Granite Falls.

LYFT Pathways Reporting: Many of the funded programs are submitting their mid-year or annual report at this time. We will be collecting their success stories and feedback to share with the Minnesota Legislature. LYFT Pathways staff are also preparing our first annual report to MDE and the Legislature. A copy of that report will be made available to Advisory Committee members and posted on our website.

Legislative Testimony: There appears to be a great deal of interest in CTE from the Governor's Office and the new Minnesota Legislature. We will be working with Senator Weber and Dahms to present our current efforts to Legislative Committees sometime over the next two months. There is no question that the LYFT Career Pathways initiative has been successful, but we know our work is just beginning. It is not likely we will rebuild our rural CTE programs that have been declining over the past 30 years in a short period of time. So, we will ask for continued, permanent support for rural CTE programs, incentives to encourage multi-school partnerships, full transportation reimbursement for schools involved in shared-CTE programs, local flexibility around high school graduation standards, and incentives for businesses to offer tuition assistance for students pursuing post-high school CTE certificates and degrees.

Submitted by Tom Hoff, SWWC Service Cooperative