**LYFT Pathways Advisory Committee NOTES**
**July 9, 2020**
**11:00 AM to 12:15 PM**
Meeting held via Zoom

**Meeting Objectives…**
- Share and reflect on the projects and efforts funded thus far through LYFT
- Gather your insights related to advancing CTE partnerships/efforts despite challenges
- Share about our plans for evaluating LYFT efforts

## LYFT Pathways Updates
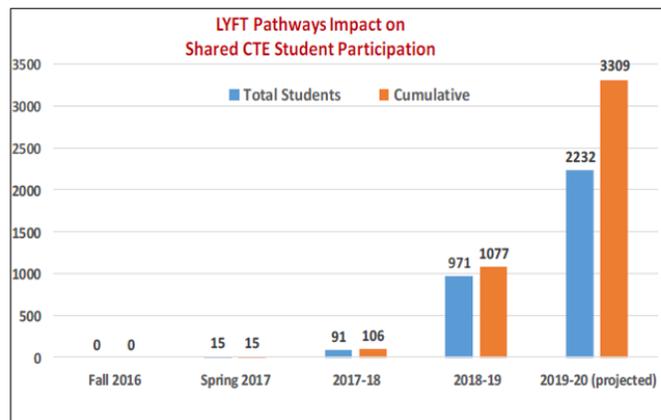
Tom Hoff, Career & Technical Project Coordinator, SWWC
**LYFT Funds at Work in the Region**
39 LYFT applications approved; Avg size $37,000; approximately $1.5 million of funds spent including grants/staffing/admin

# LYFT Pathways Impact



**New Shared-CTE Project Examples**
Aquaculture
Auto Technology
Aviation Careers
Career Exploration
Career Internships
CDL Training Program
Computer Science
Construction Trades
Culinary
Engineering Design
Entrepreneurship
Information Technology & Networking
Intro to Education

**LYFT Pathways Impact on Shared CTE Student Participation**

| | Total Students | Cumulative |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2016 | 0 | 0 |
| Spring 2017 | 15 | 15 |
| 2017-18 | 91 | 106 |
| 2018-19 | 971 | 1077 |
| 2019-20 (projected) | 2232 | 3309 |

For more information go to:
www.LYFTpathways.org

**Key Points:**
- 405 students earned 1,097 college credits to date
- 250+ business partners
- Funding leads to new CTE programs
- Programs based on economic needs
- Improves school -business relationships
- Increases student and parent awareness
- Empowers communities
- Encourages creative delivery models

- **Pilot with FirstTech Challenge**
  - **FIRST Tech Challenge** helps students learn computer science, engineering, manufacturing, teamwork, problem solving, communications skills and more. Learn more at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRuNnEWFNCs

  - LYFT Pathways grants for $4,500 to start a team in 2020-21; Teams of up to fifteen students collaborate to build and program a robot that competes on a 12'

by 12' field. Each year the competition is designed to challenge students to think critically and expand their knowledge of the engineering process.

- 11 new teams signed up to date; hoping for 12 and the opportunity to host a regional competition.

- **Learning Blade Pilot Project**
  [Learning Blade](#) is a system of interactive online lessons and printable at-home activities for 5th to 9th graders, where students learn about STEM and Computer Science careers while reviewing academics. Students can use over 400 online lessons in 12 human-centered "Missions" or stories to explore these exciting careers.

  - 5,079 Online STEM Lessons Completed
  - 690 Hours of STEM Engagement Online
  - 447 Active Students
  - 332 STEM Resource Downloads
  - 8 Online and Onsite PD Events
  - Supporting Distance Learning During Coronavirus Crisis

**Evaluation –** was put on hold due to COVID; planning to resume Ripple Mapping with U of M/Scott Chazdon this fall. Plans are in place to host ripple mapping sessions with the Advisory Committee members, a group of up to 20 students who have taken LYFT courses/experiences, and a group of up to 20 teachers. We are also considering how to gather feedback from business partners.

## Key Take-Aways on Updates

The Committee reflected on the LYFT updates. Below is a summary of the key reflections of those in attendance:

**Excitement over the growth of CTE/expanded opportunities for students, schools & businesses**
- Great that most schools in the region are part of at least 1 project
- We have connected with a large number of students! (Over 3,000!)
- LYFT has been efficient with resources and gained strong results for the investment!
- Great opportunity for students to gain exposure to careers; decide what be for them
- Excited about Learning Blade as a resource

**Future Opportunities**
- Interest (and perhaps concern) over maintaining momentum in light of COVID
- Still nearly half of funds remaining for more/new opportunities!
- Thinking ahead… prospects for funding after FY2022?

**Continuing Our Work:** **What specific actions may we take to ensure we continue moving forward despite current/potential challenges?**

Using Zoom Breakout Rooms, the Committee divided into small groups to discuss this question. Below are the combined themes of how groups responded.

**Sharing & Pairing Teachers**
- Connect teacher expertise across school districts via virtual teaching
- Pair teachers in the same content to tackle distance learning together

**Hybrid Career Exploration**
- Feature a different job/career each week; using Zoom, show off equipment; tour of job site; feature a hands on component/project
- Investigate more virtual reality/simulations to
- Utilize project-based learning to help with screen fatigue
- Build "in the can" distance-learning-friendly programs (drafting, coding, healthcare, epidemiology, etc.)

**Continue to Build and Maintain Business Relationships**
- Identify businesses who haven't had the opportunity to be involved
- Host guest speakers through Zoom
- Build a guest speaker bureau where businesses can sign up to speak with students
- Continue to work with businesses on job shadows/internships following CDC guidance

**Continue to Market Grant Funds and Encourage Innovation**
- Consider hosting a [virtual] regional idea brainstorm with schools and businesses
- Emphasize learning through unplanned changes; "better to try and fail than not try at all"

## LOOKING AHEAD
- Advisory Committee members should continue to share LYFT opportunity, Learning Blade and Tech Challenge opportunities with businesses and schools in your area – encourage innovative projects!
- Expect 2 virtual meetings in October for regular meeting AND evaluation ripple mapping