



CAREER PATHWAYS

Launch Your Future Today

LYFT Career Pathways October 2018 Update

Chancellor Malhotra Praises LYFT Pathways Partnership

During a state tour, Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor of Minnesota State (formally MnSCU) visited the Minnesota West-Granite Falls Campus to learn more about the Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) Pathways project. The chancellor heard from a variety of project partners and three high school students about the impact of career and technical education (CTE) and the growth of courses that are being shared between school districts. LYFT Career Pathways was established through a \$3 million Minnesota Legislative Grant in 2017 to develop a new model for the delivery of high school CTE. Since 2017, SWWC and its partners (which include colleges, economic development agencies, school districts, businesses, adult basic education and workforce agencies that serve the 18 county region) have developed the www.LYFTpathways.org website and the application process for school and business partnerships to request up to \$50,000 in start-up funding. The basic criteria for funding require that there are at least two high schools and one business partnering to develop new CTE opportunities that address a local or regional economic need.

So far there have been 16 funded applications totaling nearly \$500,000 to initiate projects such as Auto Mechanics, Aquaculture, Precision Manufacturing, Certified Nursing Assistant, Agricultural Drones, Introduction to Medical Careers, Pharmacy Technician, Project Lead the Way and more. Chancellor Malhotra learned about one LYFT Pathways project that is poised to become a model for rural school district and business cooperation around CTE. The Minnesota River Valley CTE Collaborative was officially formed in July of 2018 by Yellow Medicine East, Renville County West, MACCRAY, Montevideo and Lakeview school districts (and their business partners) to develop CTE experiences for their students that they could not offer or sustain on their own. The newly formed collaborative has quickly mobilized to offer eight shared CTE courses in the fields of healthcare, manufacturing/engineering, education, and information technology.

Chancellor Malhotra has been touring Minnesota to learn about innovative workforce and education partnerships. In his remarks after hearing the presentation, Malhotra said, "Projects like LYFT are happening across the state, he said, "but this wide range of partnership I've seen here is very, very rare and very, very special. This project really lifted my spirits". His goal is for colleges, like Minnesota West, are to help guide communities through future economic changes. "We don't want to be just located in your communities," he said. "We want to be for you, and we want to belong to you; we want to be of you."

