



CAREER PATHWAYS

Launch Your Future Today

**Youth
Career
Connector**

YOUTH CAREER CONNECTOR- SOUTH

A partnership between Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (PIC), Jackson County Central, Windom High School, Westbrook Walnut Grove High School, Worthington High School, and several business partners have received a \$14,375 LYFT Pathways Innovation award.

The Youth Career Connector not only provides students with exposure to local businesses but provides an opportunity for students to build professional relationships and expand their social network. It also creates real-time learning about the occupations that are in demand.

The goal is for these youth to spend less time and money on college programs they 'thought' they were interested in. Employers will make connections with aspiring workers and will develop relationships with them as they graduate and continue along career pathways.

Ultimately, our communities and economies will be strengthened through the retention and training of local talent, whose presence will bolster the local workforce and help businesses meet their workforce needs. They will become community and economic contributors and, eventually, community and economic leaders. Every event, every speaker, and every experience have the ability to influence and impact a student's career and/or education decision. It opens up a world of opportunities and professional relationships that many students didn't even know possible. These decisions then can ultimately impact the local labor market and overall economic health of southwest Minnesota.

For more information contact Carrie Bendix by email at cbendix@swmnpic.org.