

Building a Movement

Round 1 Funded Project Brief 1/4

The Building a Movement fund will support promising strategies seeking to build the cross-sector connections, frameworks and relationships needed to scale career pathways across the state and create high-quality opportunities for students in Minnesota. Organizations (501c3 or 501c6), school districts, charter schools, or post-secondary partners may apply on their own or as part of a partnership for funding and technical assistance support. All projects should be aligned to the core components of Career Academies and focus on strengthening career pathways that include access to college credit in a high school sequence, rigorous and relevant coursework and related work experience. Funding is coupled with technical assistance (in partnership with the Minnesota Service Cooperatives and individual career pathways leaders).

The funded project briefs (from round 1) are provided below. Our goal is to inform you of the incredible work happening in our communities and inspire efforts that will scale career pathways across the state.

High Level Overview

- 11 Funded Partnerships
- **Focus Areas:** Dual Enrollment, Coursework, Employer Engagement, and General Development
- **Themes:** Youth Voice, General Development, Career & Technical Education (CTE), Continuing Education/Concurrent Enrollment, Employer Engagement, Convening/Events
- **Geographic Diversity:** Carlton, Crow Wing/Cass, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Sherburne, St. Louis, Steele, and statewide initiatives

Asian American Business Resilience Network

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer engagement and building work experiences
- **Program Focus:** Address disparity in accessing STEM education and IT workforce between White and Students of Color, more inclusive curriculum and approach to student learning in Tech, and deepening employer connections through a more inclusive and culturally relevant lens.
- **Proposal:**
 - Create and strengthen career pathway programs at MN Prep Academy and Skyline Math and Science Academy, based on Project TECH approach
 - Create a AABRN employer and business network to prepare partners with resources and processes to participate in career pathways

Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General career pathways development
- **Program Focus:** Address a crucial gap identified through extensive stakeholder engagement, including student feedback, community input, and collaboration with educational entities. The overarching goal is to ensure that CMJTS youth programs meet the needs and goals of the youth they serve. All partners will help with youth engagement to gather the youth's voice.
- **Proposal:**
 - Develop Comprehensive Training Materials for Youth Leaders
 - Conduct a Comprehensive Youth Needs Assessment
 - Establish a Youth Advisory Board

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Exploration High School

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Program Focus:** Exploration High School's Career and Industry program is expanding to include pathways in construction, culinary arts, civic engagement, and internships. This expansion is driven by student feedback and community input, emphasizing the need for real-world experience and certification opportunities. Our vision is to build sustainable career pathways providing robust, hands-on learning experiences.
- **Proposal:**
 - Establish Culinary Pathway
 - Comprehensive Strategic Plan
 - Increase Community Partnerships

Freshwater Education District

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer engagement and building work experiences, General career pathways development
- **Program Focus:** The Central Lakes Secondary Perkins Consortium consists of 22 central Minnesota high school CTE programs. In collaboration with our Region 5 service coop, most of our 22 schools have started the process of building and creating CTE pathways to assist students in building a plan for their students to create an individualized career path. A large part that is still missing from building the pathways is collaboration among teachers in the same content areas.
- **Proposal:**
 - Professional Development
 - Skill Acquisition
 - Networking

GPS Education Partners

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Program Focus:** GPS Education Partners (GPS Ed) will organize a Human-Centered Design (HCD) event focused on improving work-based learning outcomes through active community engagement and collaboration. This event will gather feedback from stakeholders in order to create innovative work-based learning solutions. Participants will address critical design challenges such as increasing outcomes for diverse populations, designing high-quality career pathways, and building strong partnerships within the work-based learning ecosystem.
- **Proposal:**
 - Organize a Human-Centered Design convening focused on improving work-based learning outcomes
 - Stakeholders and other community members will learn about the benefits of human-centered design as it relates to work-based learning opportunities that benefit underrepresented populations.
 - Local cross-sector partnerships will be created that co-design solutions for collaborative success.

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Project Success

- **Selected primary focus of project:** General career pathways development
- **Program Focus:** Career and Technical Education (CTE) is crucial for engagement and accessing sustaining careers. Employers and Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) leaders have recognized these issues, turning to Project Success (PS), with a 30-year track record of bridging opportunity gaps. Building on successful college and career readiness programs, PS has created "PS Ventures" - a career pathway initiative for high school students. The primary goal is to spark their interest in exploring and honing hands-on skills relevant to rewarding careers.
- **Proposal:**
 - Convening as part of an industry-related event or activity
 - Cost to convene students and professionals
 - Students working alongside industry professionals on project, building skills and deep professional connections

Reve Academy

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Program Focus:** Reve Academy aims to expand school partnerships to ensure our programs support students in achieving required educational standards through business industry-aligned workshops, courses, and applied learning opportunities. In addition, we will embed teacher training around our programs so that school staff can learn about and launch student learning opportunities aligned to these business industry pathways. Our focus areas are human-centered design, entrepreneurship, Agile methodology, and business innovation. We also plan to use the technical assistance aid to enhance our workshop and learning content for teachers and students to access and use more easily.
- **Proposal:**
 - Design framework for successful CTE nonprofit to school partnership

Science Museum of Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer Engagement
- **Program Focus:** Our project, Workforce Ecosystems For A Change will organize and convene a cross-sector intergenerational working group to build on SMM's Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center's (KAYSC) successful STEM Justice approach and set the foundation to develop a new framework for workforce development programming in out-of-school time settings that intersects positive youth development, social justice action, rigorous STEM learning, and the workforce development needs of the Twin Cities economy.
- **Proposal:**
 - Intentionally connect SMM's Center for Equity and Systems Change stakeholders
 - Ensure an immediate and tangible increase in opportunities for
 - Shift deeply held habits of thoughts or mental models that are preventing workforce, K-12, government, social justice, and youth development leaders from aligning around goals and strategies:

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UnCommon Construction

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy, Employer Engagement
- **Program Focus:** unCommon Construction (uCC) uses the construction build process to empower youth with the skills, network, experience, and resources to lead the workforce. Through our flagship earn-and-learn program, high school students develop soft and technical skills while completing residential construction projects that are then sold on the free market. We are seeking funding to develop and launch our Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle .The Industry Circle will bring together a group of construction industry leaders from the Minneapolis area, each of whom will commit to providing the following services to apprentices.
- **Proposal:**
 - Criteria for membership in the Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle is developed
 - Members of the Greater Twin Cities Industry Circle are established and confirmed
 - At least one engagement per engagement category (Engage, Mentor, Build, Hire) is planned

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Dual enrollment-college credit in a high school sequence, post-secondary partnerships, Rigorous and relevant coursework- career and technical education, career exploration courses, alignment to local economy
- **Program Focus:** Rock Ridge Career Academies partner with local employers throughout the region, as well as with community foundations and other school entities, to ensure that students have a comprehensive understanding of careers available, skills needed, and pathways to their future success. The employer partners listed have a vested interest in the Career Academies as well as in the students themselves because they are in need of future employees. Industries involved include mining, engineering, car sales and repair, healthcare, metal fabrication, nonprofits, restaurants, and many others. Rock
- **Proposal:**
 - Rock Ridge Career Academies will develop additional partnerships and career pathways
 - Rock Ridge Career Academies staff will engage in planning sessions to strengthen and grow the career academies

Willow River Area Schools

- **Selected primary focus of project:** Employer engagement and building work experiences
- **Program Focus:** Moose Lake Community School, Willow River Area School, and Barnum Public Schools will fund a coordinator to work with our local business and industry partners to set up a mentoring program. This mentoring program will focus on juniors and seniors matching them with area employers and employees to help with student career exploration. Students will meet with their mentor approximately three times in a school year beginning in the fall of 2024. Approximately 150 students will participate in this proposed program by December 20, 2024. Moose Lake, Willow River, and Barnum Schools all plan to implement this mentorship program within our required personal finance courses.
- **Proposal:**
 - Build local workforce and create meaningful school to work connections
 - Create opportunities for students to interact directly with local industry to develop their career knowledge in a measurable manner