

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring a complex network of glowing blue lines and hexagonal shapes, resembling a molecular structure or a digital network. The lines and nodes are illuminated with a bright blue light, creating a sense of energy and connectivity. The background is a solid dark blue.

# **CAREER READINESS & STEM FORWARD**

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023-2024



# CAREER READINESS



## What is the LYFT Pathways Initiative?

### LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE TODAY

**(LYFT)** is a rural career and technical education (CTE) pathway initiative with the purpose of rebuilding CTE in southwest and west central Minnesota. The goal of LYFT Pathways is for every student in grades 7-12 in the region to gain marketable skills through meaningful CTE courses and opportunities which lead to further education and careers that match our region's labor market needs.

### FUNDING

LYFT is funded through a state-wide \$3 million Rural Career and Technical Education (CTE) Consortium Grant, which was passed by the Minnesota Legislature.

### LYFT PATHWAYS IMPACT

Approximately 60 projects were funded between 2017-2022. Nearly 14,000 students in southwest and west central Minnesota were impacted by these projects, and 40 of the projects were new CTE courses.

### QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION

For further information on the LYFT vision and formula for success, go to [www.lyftpathways.org](http://www.lyftpathways.org) or contact Eriann Faris at [eriann.faris@swwc.org](mailto:eriann.faris@swwc.org).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- One high school cooperating with at least one business or industry related partner.
- Development of new CTE courses, programs or experience or expansion of existing.
- Matches local or regional labor market needs.
- Collaboration with business partners for program content.
- Hands-on learning opportunities.
- Sustainable after first year funding.



Launch Your Future Today

1420 E College Drive  
Marshall MN 56258

## LYFT Pathways Initiative

- Advisory Committee
- Innovation Funding
- Curriculum

## Advisory Partners

- Education (K-12, Post-Secondary, Colleges/Universities)
- Industry (Chambers, EDA's, Labor, Etc.)
- Funders (Perkins, Rural CTE, Foundations)

## Why Now?

- Evolving Statewide Approach & Model
- Competitive Positioning





# ADDITIONAL CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING PROGRAMS/SERVICES

- Alternative Teacher Licensure (CTE/WBL)
- Career Navigators
- FutureForward™
- Multi-District & Regional Events
- Outstanding Industry Partner of the Year Awards



## CAREER AWARENESS UPCOMING EVENTS

2023-2024  
*\*Transportation may be needed.*

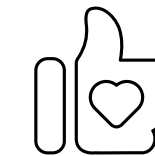
SEPT	SE MN POST-SECONDARY FESTIVAL*
OCT	CONSTRUCT TOMORROW @ ROCHESTER* MANUFACTURING TOURS* MN EDUCATION FAIR* ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STEAM SUMMIT*
NOV	CONSTRUCT TOMORROW @ MANKATO*
JAN	HEALTHCARE MONTH*
FEB	#IAMCTE CAMPAIGN STEM FORWARD EDUCATOR FORUM & TECH FEST ART SHOW & CAREER TOURS*
MAR	JOBS HQ JOB FAIR @ ROCHESTER* MARINE & RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TOURS*
APR	JOBS HQ JOB FAIR @ WINONA & AUSTIN* FUTURE READY COMMUNITY & INDUSTRY AWARDS SE MN WELDING COMPETITION*





## Who makes up STEM Forward?

Any organization who has vested interest in shaping the systems that work with youth and our future workforce.



## Value

Providing a regional vehicle and voice to statewide STEM conversations and opportunities

Connecting regional multi-sector STEM partners to share best practices, scale and enhance resources, and build partnerships for a more connected and strategic SE MN STEM community.

# STEM FORWARD

30 organizations working in collaboration to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) excellence in K-12 schools and create a future workforce equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindset they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.





# 2022-2023 REVIEW SO FAR...



## Fall & Spring Educator Forum

Spring: 88 Net Promoter Score | 50 Educators Attended | 8 Presenters | 4 TechFest Vendors | 3 Future Educator Career Fair Schools

61 Net Promoter Scores | 45 Educators Attended | 12 Presenters



## Outstanding Educator Awards

13 Nominations | 1 Award Winner | 60 Attendees



## Advisory Meetings

5 Meetings | 13 Best Practices & Resource Presentations (see next slide)



## Free STEM Kits

28 Elementary Buildings | All 5th Grade Classrooms





# Superintendent/District Professional Development @ Full Advisory Meetings

- **Changing Our Mental Model on The Purpose of STEM Education & Preparing the Future Workforce** | Presented by STEM Forward Executive Committee
- **It's Happening! The Founding of a MN STEM Ecosystem** | Presented by Kari Denisen Cunnie, Ignite Afterschool
- **Free Computer Science & IT Opportunities & Resources** | Presented by IT Center of Excellence
- **STEM Innovation Presentation: IJ Holten (Innovation in Middle Schools)** | Presented by Austin Public Schools
- **STEM Innovation Presentation: A Glance at Kingsland Public Schools** | Presented by Kingsland Public Schools
- **The State of Computer Science** | Presented by Sarah Carter, Computer Science & STEM Integration Specialist at MDE
- **ESports Leagues for SE MN** | Presented by STEM Fuse
- **STEM Innovation Presentation: At Glance at Cannon Falls Public Schools** | Presented by: Cannon Falls Public Schools
- **STEM Signing Day Partnership with KTTC** | Presented by KTTC & STEM Forward
- **STEMing with Media: More than just books** | Presented by Tami Rhea, Dover-Eyota Media Specialist & Janeen Perrizo, St. Charles Media Specialist
- **The Relationship Between CTE & STEM Education** | Presented by Brian Cashman, Secondary Southeast Perkins Consortia Coordinator & Sarah Ness, Southeast Service Cooperative **(TOMORROW!)**
- **Million Girl Moonshot Grant Opportunity(2023-2024)** | Presented by Joseph Adamji, Minnesota Science Museum **(TOMORROW!)**





# What Educators Are Saying...

"I Learned a lot. I didn't know what to expect at all. This exceeded my expectations."

"So happy these are in-person conversations and to hear real experiences and insights. AI is super new to me so the dialogue really helped me learn! Thank you!"

"I enjoy STEM Forums and it motivates me to try more STEM activities."

"These ideas apply to many areas."

"The breakouts were awesome. I can take the resources back and have staff implement them within minutes!"

"Useful and accessible information. Very relevant!"

"AI is something that is not going away. I'd rather know how to use it than not know anything."

"I loved the tables with people with ideas and products. I have a lot of great ideas for my classroom/school from the presenters."

"Good information for enhancing our teaching. These are good tools that help save us time and be more effective with our students."

"Amazing Presenters. Well organized! Great conversations!"





# 2023-2024 A LOOK A HEAD



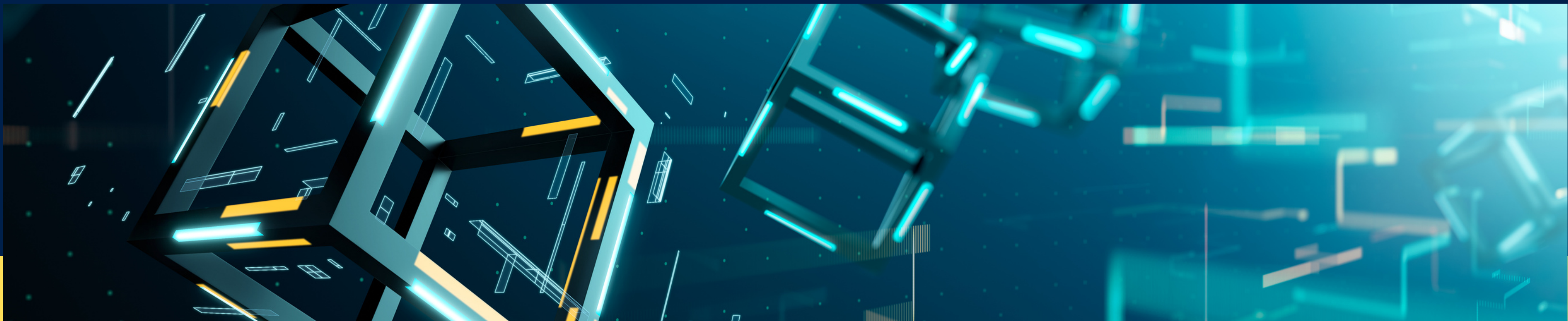
**MILLION GIRL  
MOONSHOT & STEM  
JUSTICE  
PARTNERSHIP/GRANT**



**STEM VILLAGE  
REBOOT**



**MN STEM  
ECOSYSTEM**







# THANK YOU!!

SARAH NESS | SNESS@SSC.COOP | 507-281-6678 (P) | 507-517-4559 (C) | 