

OUR IMPACT



YOUTH CAREER CONNECTOR

Youth Career Connectors work with school districts across the region to provide career advising services and connect students to local work-based learning opportunities. This year, we worked with

28 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

ANNUAL REPORT

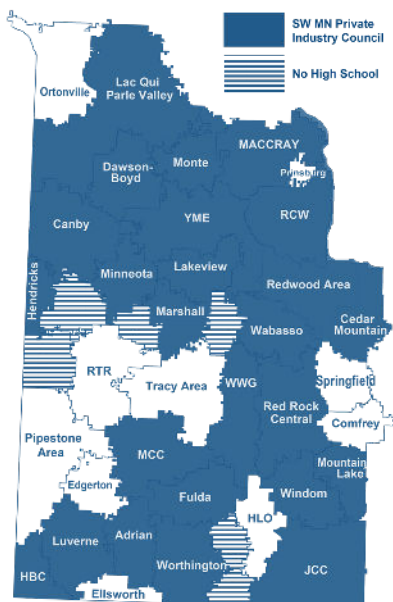
JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

4056 STUDENTS

received career advisory services including career awareness, career exploration, and work-based learning activities and events.



Providing quality Career Exploration and Career Experiences is vital to helping address employment disparities and ensuring that high-quality job opportunities are accessible to everyone. Of the students that we worked with, 44% of the students were in communities of color.



In the past year, we served **over 4,000 students** and **200 employers** in our 14-county region. As shown on the map, we worked with nearly every school district in our region.

423

MOCK INTERVIEWS

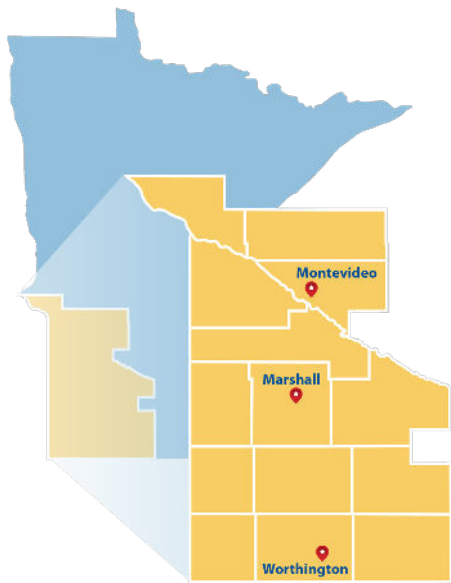
270

JOB SHADOWS/
INTERNSHIPS

1,782

CAREER FAIR
ATTENDEES

ABOUT US



The Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council's young adult division works with employers and educators to assist students with career exploration, career awareness, career preparation, and skills training that align with the needs of local employers. This is accomplished through a series of work-based learning activities, career focused events and workplace experiences. Providing students with opportunities to experience "real-life" workplaces and employees outside of the classroom is important for their career preparation and for building a pipeline of future Southwest Minnesota skilled workers.

THE NEED

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

In Minnesota, the significance of Work Based Learning and Career Exploration has grown immensely. To sustain a skilled workforce within our hometowns, it's crucial for students to know the immense opportunities available in their own communities. However, organizing these career-related opportunities within school districts has become challenging due to the various responsibilities put on teachers and counseling staff. **Youth Career Connectors** help solve this problem by **serving multiple schools as intermediaries, bridging the gap between businesses and education.** With our support, students gain exposure to real-world job scenarios and foster stronger connections between education and local industries. By investing in our Youth Career Connectors program, you help us build a thriving workforce, shaping a promising tomorrow for our region!

An article published by the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, emphasizing the crucial role of High School Career and Technical Education and work-based learning as a potential workforce development and retention strategy. (You can read the full article by using the QR code to the right.)



LEARN MORE AT WWW.SWMNPIC.ORG OR CALL 507-295-5020

OUR EVENTS

EXPLORATION

- Skills/Interest Assessments
- Employability Skills Class
- Interpersonal Skills Presentations
- Life Skills Event
- Summer Transitions Program

EXPOSURE

- Tour of Manufacturing
- Senior Day
- Business Tour Day
- Job Shadows
- Breaking Traditions
- Job Shadow Day
- Middle School Mid-Mesters
- Career Fairs

EXPERIENCE

- Summer Internship Program
- WBL Classes
- Apprenticeship
- Teacher Tour Day
- Internship Class
- Career Pathways Classes

E XPLORATION

EXPLORE INTERESTS, SKILLS AND VALUES

MATCH TO CAREERS

944

1,840

EXPLORE CAREERS & JOB OUTLOOK

CHECKPOINT 1

CAREER ASSESSMENTS 442
EMPLOYER PRESENTATIONS 502

E XPOSURE

INTERVIEWS

423

CHECKPOINT 2

TOURS, EVENTS & JOB SHADOWS

2,703

CAREER FAIRS 1,782
JOB SHADOWS 149
TOURS 772

E XPERIENCE

OJT, INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS

121

CAREER GOALS

TRAINING & EDUCATION

16

WELDING 14
CNA 2

We follow the 3 E's Roadmap created by LYFT Pathways and the Southwest Service Cooperative.

The numbers on the map indicate the number of students we worked with in each of these categories over the past year.

to learn more, visit www.lyftpathways.org

Interested in participating or learning more?

CONTACT MARIA PETERS AT MPETERS@SWMNPIC.ORG | 507-829-8168

In today's dynamic landscape, Work Based Learning and Career Exploration have taken center stage in Minnesota. As we strive to maintain a skilled and robust workforce within our hometowns, we must equip our young workers with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about their future careers. The possibilities after high school are limitless, and it is crucial for students to be aware of the opportunities available right in their own communities.

However, organizing these career-related opportunities within school districts has become challenging due to various competing responsibilities. Recognizing this need, we found a solution - **Youth Career Connectors**. By having one dedicated individual serve multiple school districts, we can efficiently distribute the workload and ensure that every student gets the attention and support they deserve.

Youth Career Connectors **serve as intermediaries, bridging the gap between businesses and school districts**. They serve as the single point of contact for both parties, establishing a **seamless pipeline** into the in-demand occupations of our region. Through this approach, we are fostering stronger connections between the educational system and local industries, nurturing a workforce that aligns perfectly with the needs of our community.

The impact of such initiatives is profound, as demonstrated by data indicating that students participating in work-based learning during their Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes show significantly higher work retention in the region five years after high school. Our aim is to provide every student with the chance to explore and experience real-world job scenarios, preparing them for a successful transition into the workforce.

Support for our cause is evident in an article published by the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development, emphasizing the crucial role of High School Career and Technical Education as a potential workforce development and retention strategy. (You can read the full article by using the QR code to the right.)



Our focus remains steadfast on serving the underprivileged and underserved populations in our region, ensuring that high-quality job opportunities are accessible to everyone. With regional Youth Career Connectors in place, we can address the unique needs of each community and empower every individual to pursue their dreams and aspirations.