

MJSP Funded Projects

October 27, 2025

Partnership Grants

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Award Amount: \$398,595

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): Clow Stamping Company

Project Summary: Clow Stamping Company, located in Merrifield, is a full-service metal stamping and manufacturer of metal components providing product and services to a wide range of industries, including agriculture, recreational vehicles, lawn and garden equipment, lighting, exercise equipment, petroleum, refrigeration, and transportation. Anoka Ramsey Community College (ARCC), in partnership with Clow Stamping, will develop a training program to build leadership capacity, close technical skill gaps, and create sustainable systems for workforce development. Seventeen courses, totaling 228 hours of instruction, will be offered in the following categories: Career Place, Tools of Production, Production Process, Using Technology, Workplace Relationship, Workplace Leadership, and Business. The training program will lead to measurable improvements in retention, production efficiency, and quality.

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Award Amount: \$399,189

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): LINDAR Corporation

Project Summary: LINDAR Corporation, located in Baxter, is a plastic thermoforming company specializing in concept design, prototyping, and production of food packaging, paint products, and custom heavy gauge plastic products. The company serves a global clientele in the food packaging, industrial, recreational, and medical sectors. Anoka Ramsey Community College (ARCC), in partnership with LINDAR, will develop a training program to build leadership capacity, close technical skill gaps, and create sustainable systems for workforce development. Eighteen courses, totaling 252 hours of instruction, will be offered in four categories: Leading Self, Leading Others, Leading the Organization, and Workplace Education. Training will be delivered in a cohort-based format and classroom-based instruction incorporating interactive, real-life applications and hands-on learning. The training program will improve employee retention and build stronger employee competencies in leadership and workplace technology.

Grantee: Century College

Award Amount: \$220,000

Grantee Contact: Kevin Jordan, 651-444-2140

Contributing Business(es): Turfco Manufacturing

Project Summary: Turfco Manufacturing, based in Minneapolis, is a commercial turf-maintenance company serving customers in the golf, sports, and lawn care industries. Turfco holds over sixteen patents for its innovative products in topdressing, seeding, spreading, material handling, and debris blowing. Century College, in partnership with Turfco, will develop and implement a comprehensive training and leadership development program designed to address immediate skills gaps, develop the next generation of leaders, and capture institutional knowledge. The program will reach approximately 80 employees across multiple functional areas with 37 courses offered in the topical areas of Business Development & Market Awareness, Leadership and Management Skills, Technical and Process Improvement, and AI and Digital Transformation. Training will be delivered in a classroom setting and a train-the-trainer component will be included to ensure long-term sustainability and internal delivery capacity.

Grantee: South Central College**Award Amount: \$350,000**

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Gardner Builders Companies

Project Summary: Gardner Builders, with offices in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Milwaukee, is a commercial construction company serving clients in the commercial construction sector, including corporate interiors, healthcare, industrial warehouses, data centers, and higher education. Gardner's three service areas include commercial construction, tenant improvements, and building services, with clients such as Bank of America, UMD, Health Partners, and the Star Tribune. South Central College (SCC), in partnership with Gardner Builders, will design a training program for new and current employees requiring technical, software, construction process, and leadership skills. The program will total 101 hours of instruction and consist of seven courses: Learning the Culture Index, The DNA of Construction Safety, Tools of Construction, Last Planner Project Management, Lean Construction, The Art of Gardner Leadership, and The Job of Business Development. Training will involve hands-on exercises, on-the-job training, and other experiential learning alongside classroom or e-based training. The training program will improve safety, efficiency, and productivity, increase employee retention, and develop internal training capacity.

Short Form Grants**Grantee: Alexandria Technical & Community College****Award Amount: \$15,593**

Grantee Contact: Karen Anderson, 320-762-4503

Contributing Business(es): Trumm Drug, Inc.

Project Summary: Trumm Drug, a locally owned pharmacy with locations in Alexandria, Elbow Lake, Glenwood, and Parkers Prairie, offers a range of services and products to support health and well-being, including prescription and over-the-counter medications and essential medical equipment and supplies. Trumm is committed to equip their current and emerging leaders with the skills to manage teams effectively, communicate clearly, resolve conflicts, and drive performance. Alexandria Technical & Community College (ATCC), in partnership with Trumm, will develop a leadership training program for pharmacists, managers, and company officers. The curriculum, totaling 16 hours, will include You're Only a Leader If Others Follow, Embracing Your Leadership Strengths and Style, Leading with Emotional Intelligence, Building Trust Through Communication and Conflict, Creating Motivational Work Environments, and Developmental and Achievement Oriented Performance Conversations. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ATCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Anoka-Ramsey Community College**Award Amount: \$49,774**

Grantee Contact: Matthew Salo, 763-422-6116

Contributing Business(es): Wanner Engineering, Inc.

Project Summary: Wanner Engineering, a family-owned business and inner-city employer based in Minneapolis, designs, manufactures, and distributes industrial pumps and fluid handling equipment. The company will be partnering with Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) in an initiative to expand leadership training to include succession planning and organizational transformation. The curriculum, totaling 64 hours of onsite training, includes Succession Risk Management, Organizational Transformation, Strategic Plan Execution, and Performance & Accountability. While all employees are expected to participate in at least one course, training will focus mainly on emerging leaders and managers. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from ARCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: Central Lakes College**Award Amount: \$49,170**

Grantee Contact: Nick Heisserer, 218-855-8000

Contributing Business(es): Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union

Project Summary: Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union (MMFCU), based in Becker, MN, is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative serving Becker, Cass, Crow Wing, Douglas, Morrison, Norman, Otter Tail, Todd, and Wadena counties. With 13 branch locations, MMFCU provides a full range of consumer and business financial services and member education to over 55,000 members, ranging from individuals and families to small businesses and agricultural producers. To sustain MMFCU's growth in services and membership, MMFCU plans to build consistent onboarding practices to reduce early-stage turnover, create a structured leadership development program for supervisors, managers, and executive leaders, and develop a formal mentorship program to provide employees with cross-departmental learning and clarity about career pathways. Central Lakes College, in partnership with MMFCU, will develop curriculum to include Onboarding & Workforce Readiness, Leadership Foundations & Individual Development, Communication, Collaboration & Coaching, Leadership Change & Problem Solving, Strategic Thinking & Organizational Alignment, and Mentorship, Career Growth & Culture in Practice. Training will be delivered through instructor-led workshops, peer learning groups, leadership panels, and structured mentorship relationships. The training program will result in a stronger leadership pipeline, lower turnover, and consistent member service across all branches.

Grantee: Century College

Award Amount: \$49,611

Grantee Contact: Kevin Jordan, 651-444-2140

Contributing Business(es): APG Cash Drawers

Project Summary: APG Cash Drawers, based in Minneapolis, is a global leader in the design and manufacture of cash management solutions and point-of-sale (POS) peripherals serving the retail, hospitality, grocery, and financial markets. APG will be partnering with Century College to provide employees with training in materials management, project management, and process optimization to support the company's lean manufacturing initiatives of shorter lead times, higher product quality, and cost control. In addition, many supervisors promoted from entry-level technical roles will receive training in supervision and team leadership fundamentals. The curriculum, totaling 115 hours, includes Supervision Fundamentals, Green Belt Training, Materials Management, Project Management, Safety, Critical Thinking, and AI Basics. Trainees will be awarded Six Sigma certification for completion of Green Belt training.

Grantee: Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Award Amount: \$49,857

Grantee Contact: Amy Hochgraber, 218-846-3766

Contributing Business(es): Waabigwan Mashkiki

Project Summary: Waabigwan Mashkiki is a Native-owned cannabis company operated by the White Earth Nation, headquartered on White Earth tribal land in Mahnomen, MN. The company is a key employer in the region and plays a vital role in supporting economic development and workforce growth within the tribal community. Waabigwan plans to strengthen its workforce capabilities in Lean process improvement and leadership development by partnering with MN State Community and Technical College to develop a series of five Lean training modules and a Leadership Development series covering eight topics. All employees will participate in Lean training to build foundational skills in workplace organization, efficiency, and continuous improvement. Approximately 60 team leads, supervisors, and managers will participate in the Leadership Development series to build skills in emotional intelligence, strategic thinking, conflict management, and innovation. Training will include experiential learning with job-relevant scenarios and tailored to Waabigwan's cultural values and leadership structure.

Grantee: Minnesota State University – Mankato

Award Amount: \$41,827

Grantee Contact: Kacie Lamont, 507-389-1479

Contributing Business(es): 3M Fairmont and New Ulm

Project Summary: The 3M Fairmont plant produces products for industrial, consumer, and electronic markets, including hook and loop fasteners, protective products, and dual lock reclosable fasteners. The 3M New Ulm plant supports 15 different divisions and produces products for applications including electrical, telecommunications, library, medical, electronics, automotive, and water filtration. 3M wants to provide a leadership program for new production supervisors in Fairmont and New Ulm to build skills for leading high-performance teams and driving consistent results. MN State University, Mankato, in partnership with 3M, will develop the Foundations of Effective Leadership program, with 16 hours of training over four-sessions, covering team dynamics and culture, effective listening and communications, coaching, emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and time management. Training will be delivered through interactive discussions and practical exercises based on real case studies provided by 3M. Trainees will be awarded a badge upon completion of the program.

Grantee: Minnesota State University – Mankato

Award Amount: \$48,998

Grantee Contact: Kacie Lamont, 507-389-1479

Contributing Business(es): Madelia Health

Project Summary: Madelia Health, located in Madelia, MN, is a non-profit, independent critical access hospital serving rural communities in Watonwan and Brown counties and parts of Martin and Blue Earth counties, which are medically underserved and health professional shortage areas. Madelia Health offers a range of services, including laboratory testing, imaging, physical therapy, ambulance services, surgical care, and comprehensive clinic care for all ages. To address the growing need for strong, effective leadership in rural healthcare settings, MN State University, Mankato, in partnership with Madelia Health, will launch a two-part leadership training program aimed at recruiting, developing, and retaining high-performing staff, mid-level managers, and emerging leaders. The six-part Empowered Leadership Development Series will be tailored for current and experienced leaders with focus on leadership styles and personal leadership values. Participants will build greater self-awareness and improve their ability to build relationships, navigate conflict, and lead through complexity. The five-part Foundations of Leadership for New & Emerging Leaders will focus on self-awareness, personal growth, and core leadership fundamentals, including how to navigate critical conversations, manage conflict constructively, influence without authority, and understand the dynamics of strong team culture. Trainees will be awarded a badge upon completion of training.

Grantee: South Central College

Award Amount: \$49,317

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Siwek Lumber & Millwork Jordan

Project Summary: Siwek Lumber & Millwork Jordan (SJ) is a third-generation family-owned business with retail and lumber yard facilities in Jordan, MN and a sawmill in LeSueur, MN. SJ serves the metro area and surrounding areas by providing homeowners and contractors with top-quality lumber, tools, and hardware supplies, and design and consulting services for decks, remodels, house plans, and additions. SJ has identified four areas of need for workforce skill development: capturing institutional knowledge through work process documentation, building cohesive high-performance teams, leadership development for next generation leaders, and effective person-to-person and electronic communications skills. South Central College (SCC), in partnership with SJ, will develop a 12-month training program with courses including Documentation & SOP's, Building Cohesive Teams, The Leader as Manager, and Methods of Effective Communication. The 72-hours of training will be delivered by SCC at on-site classrooms and may be augmented with computer-based tools, role playing, and case studies. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from SCC for each course successfully completed.

Grantee: South Central College**Award Amount: \$49,783**

Grantee Contact: Tanja Sigurdson, 507-382-1152

Contributing Business(es): Twin Cities Closet Company

Project Summary: Twin Cities Closet Company (TCC), a family-owned small business located in Minneapolis, designs, manufactures, and installs a variety of custom storage solutions, including bedroom wardrobes and closets, kitchens, laundries, mudrooms, entryways, and garages. TCC plans to provide training for its employees to close skills gaps and improve operational performance by partnering with South Central College (SCC) to develop a 12-month training program with a train-the-trainer component and courses covering four topical areas identified by TCC: Elements of Lean, Process Standardization, Team Works, and Profit Works. The 64-hours of training will be delivered by SCC at on-site classrooms along with video e-based training and case studies. Trainees will be awarded Certificates of Completion from SCC for each course successfully completed.

Pre-Development Grants**Grantee: Minnesota State University – Moorhead****Award Amount: \$47,300**

Grantee Contact: Brent Thompson, 218-477-5833

Contributing Business(es): Essentia Health

Project Summary: Minnesota's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) programs are concentrated in the Twin Cities and Rochester and primarily offered by private institutions with tuition levels between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year. The lack of local, public training programs in greater Minnesota directly limits affordable options for doctoral-level PT training and the recruitment pipeline for healthcare businesses in northwest Minnesota. Minnesota State University, Moorhead (MSUM), in partnership with Innovis Health, seeks to engage an external consultant to conduct a structured feasibility study, needs assessment, and strategic planning process for the establishment of a School of Health Professions to provide a foundational program for a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, with Occupational Therapy to follow in subsequent phases. The proposed School of Health Professions is intended to be an innovative hub for health education that is academically rigorous, accessible, equity-driven, and aligned with the needs of regional healthcare providers and communities. The project outcome will be a comprehensive feasibility and strategic planning report which will position MSUM to submit a Partnership grant application and to attract philanthropic and industry investment.