



School Business Conference, April 11

SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE



Education & Administrative Resources



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## SWWC HOLDS VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

SWWC and National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) partnered to host a first-ever Virtual Career Fair (VCF). The VCF was an online event held March 13 - 15 from 9am - 3pm each day. Twelve school districts from southwest/west central, northern and the metro area of Minnesota participated in the recruitment event. Schools in our region included SWWC, Marshall, Redwood Area, GFW, Hutchinson, Red Rock Central and Willmar.

To encourage current college students to register, information about the free event was shared with over thirty universities in the midwest. As a result, there were participants representing states across the midwest, as well as Alaska, Alabama and Pennsylvania.

Unlike the traditional college career fair which requires school personnel to travel to the career fair location and gives them access to only those students at that college, the virtual career fair provided districts access to candidates from across the United States. School district representatives were able to use a Live Chat feature to conduct on-the-spot interviews, and the VCF platform offered the ability to conduct resume searches using a variety of filters to shortlist relevant candidates. Participating school districts created customized virtual booths which allowed them to showcase the district and career opportunities. Documents, forms, videos and other materials could be uploaded to be available to participants visiting the virtual booth.

Job-seeking candidates cited many benefits to the VCF including:

- the ability to build their professional network,
- the opportunity to chat directly with school district representatives to learn more about their culture, career opportunities, etc.,
- the ability to watch live stream presentations and ask questions, and
- the ability to attend from the comfort of their own home!

Erin Liebl (*pictured at left*), a senior at Mankato State University graduating in May 2018, took part in the VCF to look for a 5-12 math teaching position. "I was asked if I wanted to join SWWC's Virtual Career Fair and was glad I did! Through this easy and beneficial resource I may have found my first job. This fair allowed me to learn more about potential jobs in the area and then get connected with those districts I had an interest in. Any teacher looking for a job in Minnesota will have luck through SWWC's Virtual Career Fair!"



By Shelly Maes  
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## CARMODY NAMED REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF EXCELLENCE

SWWC is proud to share that Cliff Carmody, Executive Director, was named the 2018 Region 3 Administrator of Excellence. The award was presented during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 8-9, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

The purpose of this award is to honor an administrator from each of the nine Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) regions. MASA Region 3 spans the 18 counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. The person selected demonstrates active involvement in education and community affairs, is highly regarded as a role model to colleagues, is a progressive change agent, and has high expectations for self and others.

Congratulations Cliff!



Cliff Carmody  
2018 MASA Region 3 Administrator of Excellence

To see a list of winners dating back to 1986, visit [www.swsc.org/masa](http://www.swsc.org/masa) and click on Regional Administrator of Excellence in the left sidebar.

## SCIENCE AND NATURE - MAY 9

SWWC is very excited for the 24th Annual Science & Nature Conference on May 9. Mike Billington and his birds, from the U of M Raptor Center, will be our keynote. Over 1,000 students in grades K-8 will experience and learn a variety of science related topics such as rocket building, science magic, be a vet, crime scene, engineering, tree trivia, about Monarchs, stars, bees, robots, STEM and much more. Watch for pictures on our Facebook page and [www.swsc.org/sn](http://www.swsc.org/sn) after the event.





# EXCITING CHANGES IN STORE FOR THE RED ROCK RIDGE ALC

During the summer of 2017, the Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center made the move to a new location in the Business Arts & Recreation Center (BARC) at 1012 5th Avenue in Windom. The move was a huge success. Both staff and students have enjoyed their first year in the new site and are looking forward to many exciting changes for the 2018-19 school year.

Next year, we will be introducing a “Blended ALC Model”. The new model will continue to provide the traditional face-to-face classes for our students, but will add a new component. SWWC has been approved as an online learning provider through the Minnesota Department of Education. Using the **STARRS Online Academy**, we will be adding numerous digital courses to enhance our curriculum and serve additional students.

The changes will involve adding an Online Learning Lab at the ALC which will be supervised by a highly qualified paraprofessional and teacher support. Building the digital curriculum into our master schedule will open opportunities for students to have more elective options. Special education services will continue to be offered to students as needed and licensed staff will assist students in staying on course in the digital world.



Red Rock Ridge ALC Staff  
Tim Hayenga, Jill Cihak, Alexandra Elston and Steve Kuntz

## RRR ALC GIRLS ATTEND SUMMIT

Brittany and Katie, students at the Red Rock Ridge ALC in Windom, had the opportunity to attend the Economic Opportunity Summit on April 13 in Bloomington hosted by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. The Summit offered a day of inspiration and learning to create a state where all women and girls prosper and thrive.

They took part in keynote sessions with Representative Ilhan Omar and Ted Bunch, and were able to attend additional workshops on leadership.

Katie and Brittany are a part of a group called Generation Next, led by Serena Lynch from United Community Action Partnership. Generation Next programming is a girl-led, girl-driven program focusing on topics such as self-esteem, team building, and college and career readiness.



By Colleen Schatz  
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**SWWC**  
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LEARNING CENTERS  
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You can find more information on the Southwest Prairie RCE at  
[www.swsc.org/rce](http://www.swsc.org/rce).



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## REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

### Who will the RCEs support?

The Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence will support districts and schools identified by the Minnesota Department of Education under the direction of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

Once the new identifications are made, our advocates will begin coaching districts and schools through a Comprehensive Needs Assessment and helping set up a Leadership Team.

Districts and schools can be identified as either needing Comprehensive Support or Targeted Support.

### Comprehensive Support Identification (CSI)

Districts/schools in this category will be assigned an advocate who will be on-site weekly or bi-weekly to support the school improvement process. Those identified will:

- have a graduation rate below 67% (overall or any student group) and/or
- be among the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools on all indicators.

### Targeted Support Identification (TSI)

Districts/schools in this category will receive event-based support and targeted professional development to support the school improvement process. Those identified will:

- have a student group performing similar to the bottom 5% of Title I schools on all indicators
- have a student group that is consistently under-performing on all indicators and/or
- have Title I schools that are low-performing on:
  - math achievement
  - reading achievement
  - progress toward English Language proficiency
  - math progressand/or
- reading progress

If you are notified that your district or school has been identified for support, you can rest assured the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence will support you! We will walk beside you to help ensure your students receive the best education possible!

If you have further questions, or would like to get in contact with the Regional Centers of Excellence, please contact me!

## LOOKING FOR MORE NEWS?

Visit [www.swsc.org/news](http://www.swsc.org/news) to read our current news releases and see our latest publications.

Visit [www.swsc.org/newsarchive](http://www.swsc.org/newsarchive) to read past issues of the Review, the Member Newsletter and our Annual Reports.



# FIRST YEAR OF LIVE WELL

We are wrapping up the first year of the Live Well program (formerly known as the Health Cost Management Program). This program focuses on overall employee wellbeing, and school districts were eligible to receive funding on a reimbursement basis for site-based wellbeing activities offered.



There are five different elements of wellbeing: purpose/career, social, financial, physical and community.

It was great to see how creative school districts were with the activities they offered. Many districts found ways to involve their students and families in some of their activities.

In addition, 19 districts took advantage of our incentive program, which was meant to motivate and reward individual employees on the districts' health plan for participating in an on-site biometric screening and site-based wellbeing activities.

Our School Pool Advisory Committee met in March and elected to increase the incentive amount for the 2018-19 school year from \$250 to \$500 per employee. Incentives will be paid as a contribution to a VEBA or HSA, or can be used to offset premium.

If your district does not currently participate in the Live Well program, I would be happy to help you get started.

## GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS VR KITS

Imagine teaching your students about Lincoln's Assassination and being able to transport your class directly to the Ford Theatre. Google Expeditions Virtual Reality (VR) Kits allow teachers to take their students on virtual field trips (expeditions) to amazing places such as the Coral Reef, the Great Wall and the Liberty Bell; to track the path of Syrian refugees; to view the respiratory system; and even go into outer space. There are over 230 expeditions to choose from. To view the expedition list, visit [bit.ly/SWWCGooE](http://bit.ly/SWWCGooE)

SWWC has made virtual reality possible through a grant from Minnesota Telemedia. SWWC received two sets of Google Expeditions VR Kits for use by K-12 schools that are members of the SWWC. Each kit contains a teacher device, 30 student devices, 30 viewers, and a router that allows the student devices to "travel" to the classroom destination. The student devices do not need Internet and will not be connected to your school's wireless network. The kits are completely self-contained and very easy to share among multiple classrooms in a school and even multiple schools in a district. To inquire about open dates and reserve a kit, please contact the SWWC Helpdesk at [helpdesk@swsc.org](mailto:helpdesk@swsc.org).



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**SWWC**

**LIVE WELL**

[www.swsc.org/livewell](http://www.swsc.org/livewell)



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### **\$2,000 Scholarship Winners**

#### **Poetry**

Cora Engels  
Grade 12, Ivanhoe

#### **Fiction**

Gabrielle Houle  
Grade 11, Redwood Falls

#### **Nonfiction**

Rachel Sajban  
Grade 12, Windom

**School With  
Most Place Finishers**  
Mountain Lake Christian

## CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Creative Writing Awards Ceremony and Reception was held on April 22 at SMSU in Marshall. This year there were 180 entries from 113 students representing 11 school districts. Our guest speaker was Geoff Herbach, author of several young adult novels including the Stupid Fast series and Fat Boy vs. The Cheerleaders.

### **2018 Creative Writing Contest Winners**

#### **Grades 3-4 Winners**

**Poetry:** 1st - Isabelle Shorter, Hutchinson; 2nd - Cassandra Slusher, Worthington; 3rd - Cooper Larson, Hutchinson

**Fiction:** 1st - Cody Rauch, Lynd; 2nd - Eden Pulkerabek, Hutchinson; 3rd - Nola Lane, Lynd

#### **Grades 5-6 Winners**

**Poetry:** 1st - Brenna Wordes, Renville; 2nd - Myah Johnson, Willmar; 3rd - Kiera Lafferty, Comfrey

**Fiction:** 1st - Mazzi Moore, Hills; 2nd - Sam Petersen, Mountain Lake; 3rd - Taylor Post, Woodstock

**Non-Fiction:** 1st - Lauren Stoel, Chandler; 2nd - Abigail Carr, Tyler; 3rd - Ranissa Beerman, Slayton

#### **Grades 7-8 Winners**

**Poetry:** 1st - Jaden Dobrenski, Marshall

**Fiction:** 1st - Liv Hanson, Litchfield; 2nd - Kate Janzen, Mountain Lake; 3rd - McKayla Kruger, Litchfield

#### **Grades 9-10 Winners**

**Poetry:** 1st - Savannah Dobrenski, Marshall; 2nd - Zoey Smith, St James; 3rd - Journie Carter, Jeffers

**Fiction:** 1st - Jessica Novotny, Buffalo Lake; 2nd - Summer Lanzen, Mountain Lake; 3rd - Emily Schroeder, Mountain Lake

**Non-Fiction:** 1st - Aunna Groenewold, Rushmore; 2nd - Mariah Hennings, Worthington; 3rd - Abigail Bannor, Worthington

#### **Grades 11-12 Winners**

**Poetry:** 1st - Cora Engels, Ivanhoe; 2nd - Taylor Wolthuizen, Edgerton; 3rd - Taylor Wolthuizen, Edgerton

**Fiction:** 1st - Gabrielle Houle, Redwood Falls; 2nd - Paige Riihl, Mountain Lake; 3rd - Rachel Sajban, Windom

**Non-Fiction:** 1st - Rachel Sajban, Windom; 2nd - Cheyanne Courts, Windom; 3rd - Emily Samdal, Windom

Congratulations to all participants!

Pictures from the Awards Ceremony can be found [www.swsc.org/cw](http://www.swsc.org/cw) (click Photos in right sidebar).



# SENIOR HIGH KNOWLEDGE BOWL

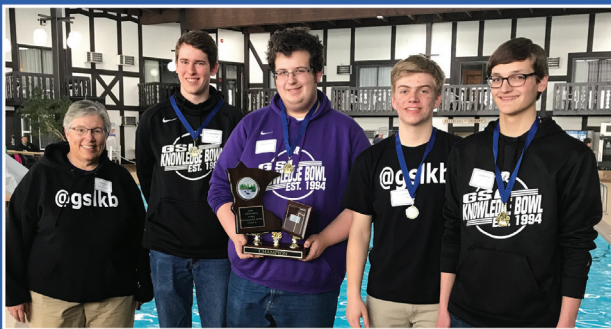
The Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl Meet was held at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd on April 12-13. The top forty-eight senior high teams, out of over 1,000 across the state, competed. The southwest and west central region was well-represented. Participating in the A division were Glencoe-Silver Lake, Murray County Central, Ortonville and Yellow Medicine East. Marshall and Worthington competed in the AA division.

After one written round and four oral rounds of close competition, the State Champion in the A division, for the second year in a row, was Glencoe-Silver Lake.

At the state meet, four-person teams compete against one another in one written and four oral rounds of interdisciplinary questions, for a total of 285 questions overall. Success at the competition requires the ability to work as a team, knowledge of a variety of areas of study, and the ability to recall that information quickly. Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

[www.swsc.org/KB](http://www.swsc.org/KB)

## Repeat State Champions! Glencoe-Silver Lake Senior High Knowledge Bowl



**GREAT people doing GREAT things!**

Congratulations to all Senior High Knowledge Bowl teams on a GREAT season!

### **Region 6 Regional - March 16**

First: GSL Purple

Second: YME I

Third: Ortonville I

### **Region 8 Regional - March 8**

First: Worthington I

Second: Marshall 2

Third: MCC I



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## SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

*The Review* is published three times a year. We welcome submissions from schools - so if you have good news to share, send it to us!

If you have suggestions, comments or items for submission, contact Shelly Maes at [shelly.maes@swsc.org](mailto:shelly.maes@swsc.org).

## PARENT STUDENT CONNECTORS AT MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Jim Gagner, EL Coordinator

The Marshall Public Schools has a total school student population of approximately 2,500 students, with a significant number of them who are minority students and/or English Learners. To better meet the needs of our minority students and families, our district employs four individuals who serve as Parent Student Connectors (PSC). They are (pictured left to right below) Fartun Ali, Jesus Reyes, Tina Quinones, and Hsa Mu.

The Parent Student Connectors' primary mission is to improve minority students' academic achievement by working with students and families to promote healthy personal and social development, building resilience, encouraging active community involvement and increasing self-worth.

They have worked to improve the participation and involvement of students and parents both in the school district and the community of Marshall. These four individuals work directly with families during registration, parent/teacher conferences, and often on a one-to-one basis for special situations. They help with college prep, school transition and other learning opportunities offered in the Marshall area. The connectors also help families with medical challenges, help find employees to work in our schools, assist students getting involved in extra-curricular activities, help with class placement, and line students up with homework help, after-school learning programs and summer school. They also coordinate work of the Cultures United Club for High School and Middle School students.

In their role, they work closely with English Learner teachers and counselors to help our students receive the best education possible. Additionally, English Learner students are able to participate in activities outside the school day and school year – such as bike trips, fishing outings, cultural events, and many other educational opportunities because of the efforts of Parent Student Connectors.





# MAKERSPACE FUN IN ORTONVILLE

By Sara Wollschlager, Elementary Technology Teacher

Makerspaces provide a space for students to independently learn and where they are allowed to play around with their own ideas, ask their own questions, and think like scientists. It can provide a project-based learning environment where students have the freedom to choose what they want to do without a set of instructions that they must follow. They are allowed to tinker, experiment and think like scientists and explorers.

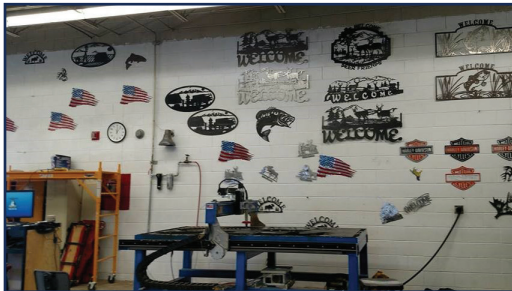
Technology Integrationist, Shawnda Johnson, and Media Specialist, Sandy Haugen, put together some of those thinking “outside-of-the-box” and self-directed opportunities by creating:

- Movable lego table with a variety of types of legos
- Movable cart with a variety of materials and ready-to-go ideas for teacher check-out
- Spheros
- Drones
- Virtual Reality
- Little Bits
- Electronic Snap Circuits
- Marble Run Kits
- Zoob Builders
- Knex Education Maker Kits
- Osmos
- Magnetic Construction Kits

Elementary Technology teacher and after school program supervisor, Sara Wollschlager, has tried out some of the equipment during afterschool Trojan Tech Time and during Hour of Code week at the beginning of December. Mrs. Kunde's Computer Tech 7th and 8th grade classes completed units of computer coding to build computer generated designs and games. Students also built on their computer coding skills by assembling LittleBits circuits and programming them to do a variety of functions. Student have been commenting: “This is awesome, I want to continue to do this at home”, “So neat to see my coding affect hardware!”

Computer Tech 8 students took their computer coding skills to new heights (literally) through programming drones. With no hand controller, only their programing code, they could instantly see their code control their drone. One incorrect calculation and it did not take off; bad slaving or an error in the line of code and it would crash. There was so much concrete knowledge through hands-on experimentation - an exciting and powerful way to learn.



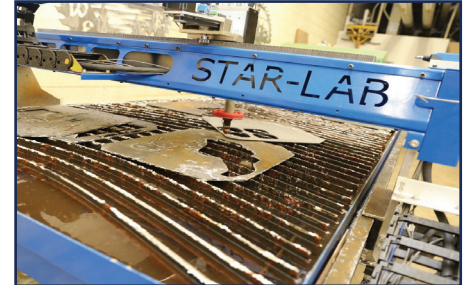


## MCC ADDS CNC PLASMA CUTTING TABLE

By Jake Scandrett, High School Principal

A Dupont Pioneer grant was awarded to Murray County Central High School for the curriculum enhancement of their Ag, Shop, Woods, and Welding classes through the purchase of a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Plasma Cutting Table. This tool will provide real world, hands on experience for students and will be directly applicable to many different working environments, from ag and machining to industrial tech and engineering. The goal of this purchase was to not only enhance our curriculum and CTE (career and tech ed) programming but to also provide exposure for students to help prepare them for life after high school. We have already seen the benefits of this table to our school and community not only in what the table is able to produce, but also in student engagement and an increased interest in metal working. More than one student has decided to pursue a career in welding after high school due to the purchase of this table. It has helped clarify the future for some students and motivate them to go on to post-secondary education in related fields.

This grant was made possible by the thoughtfulness of our local Pioneer Seed group who recommended us for this opportunity. Other contributors to the project included our local FFA Chapter, Currie Town and Country, and Murray County Central School District. Funds from our local Carl Perkins grant were also used to help support this purchase.



## LYFT FUNDS PROJECTS IN REGION

Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) Pathways is funded through a \$3 million Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium Grant passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2017.

LYFT has already funded several CTE projects developed by high schools and their partners to meet the needs in their schools.

The goal of LYFT Pathways is for every secondary student 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.

There are short summaries of all funded projects on the LYFT website. Visit [www.lyftpathways.org](http://www.lyftpathways.org) and select **Regional Projects** on the channel bar.



# CAPITALIZING ON EVERY MINUTE

By Kristin Doeden, Second Grade Teacher

The second-grade team at Prairie Elementary in Worthington has implemented a new strategy to capitalize on every minute that students are at school. They developed a plan to utilize the time before school starts each morning for learning. In the past, students would arrive, eat breakfast and then report to their grade-level commons area where paraprofessionals would read books aloud until class time. The second-grade teachers and paraprofessionals agreed this was an inefficient way to occupy more than 200 second-graders for up to 30 minutes each morning.

Now, when second-graders report to the commons, paraprofessionals present teacher-prepared lessons. Teachers use student data to create lessons that supplement the curriculum and provide opportunities for additional review and practice. Lessons include vocabulary development with a word of the day. Each day of the week has a content theme, such as Math Mondays and Word-work Thursdays.

One of the favorite activities happens on Wonderful Book Wednesdays. The team digitally records a variety of staff members each reading their favorite story. The guest reading is displayed on the SMART board every Wednesday. Through this, students get to know staff from various grade-levels and departments.

Paraprofessionals work to foster engagement and interaction amongst students. Turn and talk activities are used to stimulate language development and social interactions. Since students have time to interact constructively prior to entering the classroom, teachers are able to make their minutes in the classroom even more beneficial.

## LOOKING FOR SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Spend some time with us this summer! Below is a list of some of the training coming up. If you don't see the training you need, let us know - we might be able to provide it for you. Contact Shelly Maes ([shelly.maes@swsc.org](mailto:shelly.maes@swsc.org)) with any training requests.

- Crisis Prevention Institute - Full and Refresher
- Summer Leadership Conference
- STEM Academy
- File, Files, Files
- Visual Phonics
- Data Training and Focus Groups
- Google Educator Boot Camp

Visit [www.swsc.org/workshops](http://www.swsc.org/workshops) for a full list of offerings. And watch for our Summer PD Catalog - it will be on our website mid-May.



# RECAP OF SWWC SPRING CONFERENCES

SWWC's Annual **Educational Technology Conference** was held March 11-12 at Redwood Area Schools. Over 250 people from the following school districts in our region attended: Adrian, BOLD, BLHS, Canby, Cedar Mountain, Clarkfield Charter, Edgerton, Fulda, Heron Lake-Okabena, Hills-Beaver Creek, KMS, LqPV, Lakeview, Luverne, Marshall, Marshall Area Christian, Milroy, Milroy Charter, Minneota, Montevideo, Mountain Lake, Pipestone Area, Redwood Area, SWWC, Tracy, Wabasso, WWG, Windom, Worthington and YME. Breakout sessions covered topics including cyberbullying, Seesaw, VR in the classroom, zSpace, Network Security, GSuite, Google Quizzes, Google Sites, SMART Interactives, Breakout EDU, Nearpod 101 and so much more! For more information, visit [www.swsc.org/techconf](http://www.swsc.org/techconf).

The **2018 Behavior Conference**, hosted by SWWC Behavior Services, was a success despite spring weather challenges. The conference was held in two locations on two consecutive days. Approximately 200 people attended in Marshall on April 9 and 80 people attended in Brookings (SD) on April 10. A new registration option this year allowed over 60 individuals from 27 states to join us and listen to the presenters, follow their presentation online and live chat with the online moderators. In total, we hit an all-time high attendance number of 340 people! Conference attendees represented the following school districts in our region: Adrian, KMS, Lake Benton, Luverne, MACCRAY, Marshall, Minneota, Montevideo, Mountain Lake, Pipestone Area, Redwood Area, RTR, St James, SWWC, Willmar, Windom and YME. More information can be found at [www.swsc.org/behavior](http://www.swsc.org/behavior).

SWWC's 35th Annual **School Business Conference** was held on April 11 at SMSU in Marshall. Over 180 people from the following school districts in our region: Adrian, ACGC, Benson, BOLD, BLHS, Canby, Cedar Mountain, Dawson-Boyd, ECHO Charter, Edgerton, Ellsworth, Fulda, GFW, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Hendricks, Heron Lake-Okabena, Hills-Beaver Creek, Hutchinson, JCC, KMS, LqPV, Lakeview, Lynd, MACCRAY, Marshall, Milroy, Minneota, MRVED, Montevideo, Mountain Lake, MCC, New London-Spicer, Ortonville, Pipestone Area, Redwood Area, Renville County West, Round Lake-Brewster, RTR, Springfield, SWWC, Tracy, Wabasso, WWG, Willmar, Windom and Worthington. Forty-two breakout sessions were held on topics including special education finance, special education funding formulas, Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS), special education fiscal monitoring, Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA), school district audits, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) reporting, online learning, cybersecurity, Google Drive and more. For more information, visit [www.swsc.org/rmic](http://www.swsc.org/rmic).



**SWWC Technology Staff**

The 2019 Conference will be held March 10-11 at Pipestone Area Schools.



**SWWC Behavior Services Staff**

Four Behavior Conferences will be held during 2018-19:

- Marshall: October 2018
- Rapid City, SD: October 2018
- Mankato: Spring 2019
- Sioux Falls, SD: Spring 2019



**SWWC RMIC Staff**

The 2019 School Business Conference is tentatively set for April 10 in Marshall.

## 2018-19 STUDENT ENRICHMENT EVENT DATES

- Young Artists: October 25, Marshall
- Young Writers: January 9, 2019, Marshall
- Science and Nature: May 15, 2019, Marshall
- Career Expo - Worthington: September 25
- Career Expo - Marshall: September 26