

Virtual Career Fair Held

SWWC and National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) partnered to host their 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.

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!

All of the participating school districts said they found the VCF experience convenient, easy to navigate and worthwhile to do again!



Erin Liebl, 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!"