

# THE REVIEW

## SPRING 2019



By Andrea Anderson  
Student Activities Coordinator  
[andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org)

### SWWC STUDENT ENRICHMENT



## CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

The Creative Writing Contest gives students in grades 3-12 a chance to express themselves by writing poetry, fiction or non-fiction. We have many amazing young writers here in Southwest Minnesota.

This year we received 192 entries from 116 students representing 15 school districts and individual families. An Awards Ceremony was held on April 14 to reveal the winners and give out awards. Students also had a chance to speak to some of the judges and get some critiques.

The guest speaker at this year's Awards Ceremony was Megan Maynor, a picture book author whose work has been featured in The New York Times. Her books include Ella and Penguin Stick Together, Ella and Penguin: A Perfect Match, and The Sandcastle That Lola Built. Megan also teaches writing and visits schools to talk about books and reading. She lives in her beloved home state of Minnesota with her husband, three kids, and one rabbit.



To see the full list of winners and additional pictures, visit [www.swsc.org/cw](http://www.swsc.org/cw).





By Cliff Carmody  
Executive Director  
[cliff.carmody@swsc.org](mailto:cliff.carmody@swsc.org)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Page	Article/Topic
2	WEM Outstanding Educator
3	SWWC ELC Update SWWC Facilities Update
4	Teaching and Learning Update
5	Special Education Update
6	Insurance Update
7	Student Enrichment Update
8	LYFT Update
8 - 10	School District Updates
11	SHKB Update
12	Glassy Treasures

## WEM OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AT REDWOOD VALLEY MS

Recently, through a partnership with Synergy & Leadership Exchange, I was honored to attend a special presentation to an outstanding teacher and coach at Redwood Valley Middle School.

Matt Lundeen, a teacher and coach, was surprised with the news that he was a recipient of a 2019 WEM Outstanding Educator Award as an athletic coach - an honor that is accompanied by a \$15,000 award.

I was truly impressed with Matt's genuine response when accepting the award. Not willing to accept all of the credit for the work that led to this recognition, Matt was sure to thank his family, friends, co-workers and the student athletes he influences. One of his student athletes commented, "Under Mr. Lundeen's coaching and guidance, we were not a team, we were a family. He didn't just coach us in football, but also coached us in life."



Congratulations Matt – you are making a difference; you are an exemplary role model and are certainly one of the "GREAT people doing GREAT things" in our region!

## LOOKING FOR PD?

SWWC's Professional Development Catalog is online and updated regularly. We no longer print/mail copies to each school in the region. However, you can still get a printed copy by downloading the catalog as a PDF.

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.

Visit [www.swsc.org/workshops](http://www.swsc.org/workshops) for a full list of offerings and to register.

**[Click this link to view the Professional Development Catalog.](http://www.swsc.org/workshops)**



# CELEBRATING TEACHERS

## MAY 5 - MAY 11

Since 1984, the National PTA has designated one week in May as a time to thank and honor the teachers who educate our children. This week long celebration is a time for us to recognize teachers and the contributions they make to our students and their families, the school district and community. Being a teacher is more than a job. Our teachers work far more than eight hour days, nine months a year. Our teachers come early and stay late to meet with colleagues, plan individualized lessons for students and communicate in a variety of ways with families and related service professionals. Our teachers attend workshops and trainings during the summer months, seek out personal professional development opportunities and return early in August to begin preparing for students. Why? Because all students matter to our teachers. Take time during the week of May 5 - May 11 to tell your child's teacher or a teacher in your life "Thank You" for using their talents to inspire and educate children.

May puts thoughts of summer fun into all of our minds. As the year winds down, the SWWC Educational Learning Centers are planning for an Extended School Year (ESY) for some students, and families are beginning to plan the days of summer for their children. ESY is not summer school. ESY is specialized instruction or related services individualized for each student and a part of the student's IEP. Teachers determine if a student is eligible for ESY by collecting data to determine regression and recoupment. Data collected will help the IEP team decide if the student will lose academic and social skills without continued support and if the student requires additional time to regain those skills. ESY will be occurring at each of the SWWC Educational Learning Center sites this summer. Having students in school for ESY provides wonderful opportunities for staff and students to take advantage of learning opportunities that accompany beautiful summer days.

## MONTHLY VIDEO UPDATES

Each month we are providing two short video updates. One focuses on the happenings at the ELCs ... and the other provides information on the work being done at our ELC facilities.

You can find the ELC update at [www.swsc.org/elc](http://www.swsc.org/elc) (click "Monthly Update" in the left sidebar).

Facilities updates and pictures of current projects can be found at [www.swsc.org/facilities](http://www.swsc.org/facilities).



By Dawn Holtz  
Principal, ELC - Cosmos  
[dawn.holtz@swsc.org](mailto:dawn.holtz@swsc.org)

**SWWC**  
EDUCATIONAL  
LEARNING CENTERS

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



A view from the sky: ELC - Montevideo





By Lisa Gregoire  
Senior Director of  
Teaching and Learning Services  
[lisa.gregoire@swsc.org](mailto:lisa.gregoire@swsc.org)



## NEW PROGRAMMING IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

A significant amount of time has been spent this year within SWWC's Teaching and Learning Division developing and/or implementing new programs and offerings to meet both internal and member needs.

### New Teacher Center

In July of 2018, five districts and SWWC began a series of professional learning for Instructional Coaches with the New Teacher Center. This is a two-year curriculum, consisting of 16 days of training, online forums, Principal/Leader Forums, in-field coaching support and Leadership Team representation from the six participating districts. Training is based on high leverage processes and tools, if implemented with fidelity, to accelerate teacher practice in improving student achievement. We have heard some great success stories throughout the early stages of implementation and look forward to hearing more as we begin a new cohort in 2019.

### Alternative Teacher Licensure Program

In the spring of 2018, SWWC received a grant to utilize in preparing to become an Alternative Teacher Preparation Program. Throughout the year, we have been working towards becoming a Unit Provider, which means, if approved, SWWC could recommend candidates for teacher licensure. In conjunction, we will submit a Request for Initial Program Approval (RIPA) to PELSB, which is a specific licensure area. We will be focusing on licensure related to Special Education to start, as we are experiencing a shortage in this area across the region. PELSB will conduct a three-day site visit in July to ensure we are meeting the necessary requirements.

### Minnesota Principals Academy

SWWC was selected to host the next Minnesota Principals Academy (MPA) outstate cohort. The MPA is another two-year, comprehensive curriculum from the National Institute of School Leadership as its foundation. This curriculum is focused on coherent standards-based instruction with a path to continuous learning and improvement. This is intended for current principals or those holding leadership responsibilities within a district. This series will begin in September of 2019.

### OnToCollege

SWWC has partnered with OnToCollege (formerly John Baylor Test Prep) the past several years, but this year were able to offer some additional cost savings to our members who subscribe to this web-based program (which offers ACT, SAT, ASPIRE, and OTC College Counseling prep and fundamentals) and are members of both MREA and SWWC. We have several regional schools seeing an increase in their average ACT scores and attribute this increase to OTC.

## 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.

# IMPROVED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The SWWC directors and assistant directors of special education have been partnering with districts throughout the 18-19 school year in working towards improved outcomes for students receiving special education services. The directors worked closely with district administration in determining target areas of need for each of the individual districts that we serve. Teams then worked together to create a goal(s) from target areas that directly addressed students with disabilities and their achievement.

Goal areas were based on district need, and were directly related to the individualized special education processes of each district. An example of a goal area related to student achievement in academics may have included a focus on closing the achievement gap between general education and special education students related to standardized testing. An example of a goal related to student achievement in social emotional areas may have addressed the disproportionality of office referrals of students receiving special education services compared to their general education peers.

The initiative relating to improved student outcomes for students with disabilities is not a new concept, but part of a continued push to ensure all students are receiving appropriate instruction, supports, and opportunity within our schools. All district teams have a uniqueness that allows them to be progressive and successful in regard to student achievement. However, I believe some of the common strengths among the great district teams include being adaptable, committed, and efficient. The field of special education is ever-changing, but the directors and assistant directors at SWWC are very fortunate to work with such dedicated teams that strive for improved outcomes for students receiving special education services.

## THE READY CLINIC

SWWC is excited to announce the opening of The READY Clinic at ELC - Montevideo this September! This early intervention program is aimed to provide quality, medically-necessary treatment to children 6 years of age and under who are diagnosed with autism and related disorders.

The READY Clinic team includes a clinical psychologist, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Behavior Therapists, and each child's parents who will provide developmental and behavioral programming using Applied Behavior Analysis. Treatment is aimed at reducing challenging interfering behavior and closing the developmental gap between its young clients and same-age peers before they enter school at age 7.



By Brennan Kent  
Assistant Director of Special Education  
[brennan.kent@swsc.org](mailto:brennan.kent@swsc.org)

**Common strengths  
among the GREAT  
district teams include  
being adaptable,  
committed and efficient!**

GREAT people  
doing GREAT things!

**SWWC**  
**BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH SERVICES**

For more information on  
The READY Clinic, contact:  
Jennifer Bozosi  
[jennifer.bozosi@swsc.org](mailto:jennifer.bozosi@swsc.org)  
507-339-4933



By Mari Wagner  
Insurance Specialist  
[mari.wagner@swsc.org](mailto:mari.wagner@swsc.org)



By Kari Bailey  
Regional Wellness Specialist  
[kari.bailey@swsc.org](mailto:kari.bailey@swsc.org)

## INSURANCE UPDATE

As we wrap up the school pool renewal process this year, we would like to remind you of the benefits of being a school health insurance pool member.

- First, and foremost, you have the ability to customize your health insurance plan to meet the needs of the staff in your district. Options can include deductibles, medical networks, pharmacy networks, formularies, and other items like bariatric coverage, infertility coverage, embedded deductibles and 4th Quarter carryover.
- You get the potential for a premium refund if claims come in lower than expected and you qualify. From the most recent settlement year (2017-18), seven schools received over \$325,000 in refunds.
- You can include a medical savings account so your employees can take advantage of the tax savings for medical expenses. We partner with Further, and by being a pool member, your district qualifies for a reduced rate on medical savings accounts monthly administration fee. You may also have more than one service with Further, but whether you have one or multiple services, you only pay a single fee.
- Finally, SWWC has a wellness program that sets our health insurance pool apart from the rest! Our wellness program is free to districts who are in the school pool and choose to participate. If your district offers on-site biometric screening and four employer-facilitated wellness activities, your covered employees can choose to participate and earn \$500 to put in their HSA or VEBA. For 2018-19, our school districts had the potential payout of \$2,016,090 for these initiatives.
- Finally, we are not just health insurance. If you are looking to round out your benefits package, we offer group life, vision, dental, long term disability, and long term care. We take great pride in taking care of our members. Let us know how we can help you.

SWWC also offers cyber liability insurance! Contact Mari for more information.

**Is your agency's information protected?**



**Prepare for, respond to, and recover  
from a cybersecurity attack  
with our cyber liability program!**

**SWWC**  
SCHOOL WORKERS' WELLNESS COOPERATIVE



# SCIENCE & NATURE CONFERENCE

**May 15 at SMSU in Marshall**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual SWWC Science & Nature Conference will be held May 15 at SMSU in Marshall. Over 900 students in grades K - 8 will be attending this year. With 34 different science related topics going on that day, students will be having fun learning about wind energy, robots, building a bridge and roller coaster, archaeology, bugs and invasive species, fish, zoo animals, electricity, the ultra-cold, angioplasty, how to build a rocket, air balloons and so much more.

Mike Zacher, the Director of Operations for Aerostar International, a division of Raven Industries in Sioux Falls, SD, will start the day teaching kids about the stratified world of lighter-than-air. He will be show applications of lighter than air, which include aerostats, parade balloons, scientific balloons and stratospheric balloon platforms. Mike will also talk about how balloons are manufactured, and show what goes into conducting a stratospheric flight.

This will be an incredibly fun day.



By Andrea Anderson  
Student Activities Coordinator  
[andrea.anderson@swsc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swsc.org)

**SWWC**  
STUDENT  
ENRICHMENT

## AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR RECAP

Terri DeGezelle Michels and David Geister were the visiting author and illustrator this year. They visited participating schools and shared their children's books and their journey of success and struggles of becoming an author and an illustrator.

Students in grades K-6 learned how they create ideas for books and illustrations, what it takes to be an author or illustrator and the result of hard work and determination, and got excited about writing their own stories.

This program is held every spring and is available for a half-day, full day or multiple day residencies for elementary students. More information can be found at [www.swsc.org/caip](http://www.swsc.org/caip).



### 2018-19 Author/Illustrator Participating Schools

- BLHS Elem
- Edgerton Public
- Ellsworth Public
- Hutchinson Park & West Elem
- KMS Elem
- Lakeview Elem
- Marshall Holy Redeemer
- Marshall Park Side & West Side Elem
- Minneota St. Edward
- NLS Middle
- SWWC ELC – Windom
- Redwood Reede Gray Elem
- Sleepy Eye St. Mary's
- Wabasso Public



By Tom Hoff  
Career and Technical  
Project Coordinator  
[tom.hoff@swsc.org](mailto:tom.hoff@swsc.org)

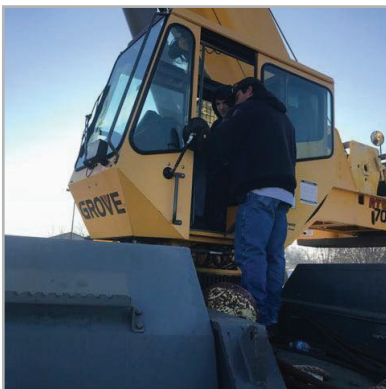


## CAN LYFT CAREER PATHWAYS HELP REVIVE CTE?

The short answer is “yes”, but it is only a small part of the goal of bringing more CTE programs back to students in our rural schools. LYFT Career Pathways 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 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. The project provides grants (up to \$50,000 each) to multi schools and business partners to develop CTE programs that would not exist without these start-up funds. So far those efforts have been very successful, with about 25 funded projects that are provide innovative CTE programming to over 700 students. Visit [www.LYFTpathways.org](http://www.LYFTpathways.org) to read about the new CTE programs that have resulted from these grants (click the Regional Projects tab).

The critical question about CTE and the LYFT Career Pathways project is how will the programs be sustained after the grant funds are gone? Many of the projects that received funding are already on their way toward sustainability when the grant cycle ends. But, to fully restore high school CTE programs to our rural Minnesota schools there will need to be statewide dedicated funding that incentivizes multi-school and business partnerships. Sadly, CTE has been on a downhill slide for the past 30 years, but efforts like LYFT Pathways and others are bringing back critical CTE programs and helping students see the opportunities for a successful career in their home communities and the region.

Visit [www.lyftpathways.org/maps](http://www.lyftpathways.org/maps) to view collaborative courses offered by semester.



## GREAT THINGS AT #THEHIVE

By Rich Schneider, Superintendent

This spring Yellow Medicine East is teaming up with our regional educational partners and Fagen, Inc. to offer a new class titled, Industrial Construction Methods. This course is open to all students in grades 11-12 that are interested in an industrial level construction career. We are very fortunate to have a local company such as Fagen, Inc., open up their doors to help the students here at Yellow Medicine East gain knowledge and skills from their trained professionals. Students will address a broad range of topics relevant to a challenging and constantly changing industry. The construction course content will prepare the student for entry-level employment or to continue their education in a post-secondary program. The students will learn the safety requirements of the worksite, architectural drawings, civil engineering, ironwork, siding/scaffolding, millwright, pipe fitting/welding, electrical, and most importantly heavy equipment operation.



Our focus here at #TheHIVE continues to be that all students leave YME college and career ready. Times have changed for our students as our local labor market is hungry for individuals who show up for work and



are willing to learn. Over the past two years, we have teamed up with MN West and our regional educational partners to offer courses to our students in high demand job areas through pathways such as renewable energy, medical careers, education, manufacturing and engineering, and computers just to name a few. We thank our communities for your continued support of our students here at #TheHIVE. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop in and see the many great opportunities that we have available for our students.

## ICS AND HUTCH TEAM UP

Connecting high school education with future education and career opportunities is the goal of “TigerPath Academies.” Hutchinson Public Schools has pioneered a unique path program to provide their students with hands-on experience before entering the formative years of higher education and ultimately, their careers. Recent graduate Tyler Stenzel partnered with ICS Consulting Inc.’s Dan Thompson for a unique internship opportunity during his senior year.

Thompson, ICS’ Superintendent for the project, said “this portion of the building is being designed around the TigerPath concept and I am confident that both the students and the community will be very impressed when it’s completed.” The additions and renovations, approved as part of a \$44.95 million bond referendum in November of 2015, involved major renovations and additions at the existing high school including core classroom spaces, science, art, FACS, band, health, physical education, resource commons and collaborative/group learning areas. Major renovated areas included the existing kitchen and serving areas, auditorium, locker rooms and industrial technology areas to support programmatic initiatives for the Tigers.

Tyler spent an hour of each day working alongside and shadowing Thompson five days a week. This out-of classroom, real-world experience solidified Tyler’s future career path in the construction field. The STREAM program (Mechatronics, Construction, Engineering, Automotive, Renewable Energy, Manufacturing, Design and Agriculture) included a 60-day term with a 20% minimum requirement of in-classroom experience. The in-classroom experience included cultivating professional development skills and class-workplace professionalism. According to then-Hutchinson High School Principal Patrick Walsh, 50% of all Hutchinson High School students participate in STREAM, not including the other three academic academies the District currently offers.

Hutchinson Superintendent Daron VanderHeiden said “what we’re really shooting for is all of our seniors have some type of hands-on experience in a career area that they might be going off to school in or they might want to graduate from high school into that career. Tyler is one of the first that has actually been put into the program.” The other academies include Business Finance, Human Services and SciHi (Healthcare/Science). The District partners with businesses and organizations within the community directly to provide hands-on experience for all students.

ICS Consulting, Inc. provided pre-referendum assistance and Project Representative Services for the Hutchinson High School improvements as part of the overall referendum projects. In collaboration with LHB Architects, construction for the building was complete in September 2018.



If you have questions about how  
ICS Consulting can help  
YOUR district, contact:  
Karen Olson  
Manager, Coop Member Services  
ICS Consulting, Inc.  
Cell: 651-728-1880



# CAREER EXPLORATION AT MMS

By Mary Kay Thomas, Middle School Principal

Three years ago, recognizing a need to expand and develop curriculum that fit with the World's Best Workforce initiative, Marshall Middle School (MMS) decided to focus on helping their eighth grade students explore career interests. Seeing the potential to make a connection between middle and high school career exploration, they decided to begin using the Minnesota Career Information System Jr. (MCIS Jr) as a tool to help students begin creating a portfolio that would then transfer to their work in careers class at Marshall High School. MCIS Jr. is an Internet-based system that supports reading, writing, decision-making, and critical thinking skills while developing self-awareness, career exploration, research, and planning skills. It is written at a fifth-grade level, making it appropriate for special populations as well as students in middle schools or junior highs.<sup>1</sup>

School counselors and eighth grade advisors worked together to select lessons focused on helping students understand themselves and their future interests. Within MCIS Jr. students began developing a portfolio focused on the following lessons:

- Learning Style Survey: students gain an understanding how they learn best (auditory, visual, or kinesthetic)
- Career Interest Inventory: students narrow down interests based on 16 career cluster categories
- Assessing My Results: provides a framework for researching occupations in their top career cluster
- Reality Check: gives students an idea of how much money they will need to make for the lifestyle they imagine for themselves.

The culmination of the curriculum was a career fair that was held on March 29 at MMS. Students signed up for three separate sessions with professionals from 17 area businesses and the military. These professionals provided information and answered questions about skills needed for success, interviewing, career paths within an industry, education and training needed, salary ranges, typical work days, job duties and more.

The career fair event has become a highlight for everyone at MMS.

- "Today was the BEST day all year!" - Jen V., teacher
- "What a great experience for our students!" - Tara R., teacher
- "This helped me learn more about the career I am interested in." - Sydney B., student
- "The speaker told us to live and do what makes us happy." -Maisey B., student
- "I learned I can travel to new places while I work." - Mohammed I., student
- "I always enjoy speaking to youth regarding careers and work life. Growing up, it was an area that I felt didn't get enough attention - and it is an opportunity for me to give back to the future generation. I was impressed with the quality of the questions from the students. There is no doubt that they will have a stronger understanding of finding a schooling and career path that puts them into a field of interest." - Nick S., Jonti-Craft, Inc.
- "I like the fact the school provides this for kids knowing what they're learning in school today will shape their future. It's important for them to hear about real life experiences. I could tell from the looks on their faces, it keeps their minds thinking about "what's next" for them in their future." - Charlie E., U.S. Bank



MMS proudly offered this premiere opportunity for students and is grateful for the support of local professionals who provided their time and passion to the event.



References: 1 "About Us." Minnesota Career Information System | About Us, IntoCareers University of Oregon, 2017, portal.mncis.intocareers.org/about-us/



# THIS IS WHAT SENIOR HIGH KNOWLEDGE BOWL SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

## Senior High Knowledge Bowl



**1st Place  
GSL Black**



**2nd Place  
Hutch I**



**3rd Place  
GSL Purple**



**Region 6 Regional**  
Held March 8, 2019

You can find more pictures and information by visiting [www.swsc.org/KB](http://www.swsc.org/KB).

## Senior High Knowledge Bowl



**1st Place  
MCC I**



**2nd Place  
Worthington I**



**3rd Place  
Wabasso**



**Region 8 Regional**  
Held March 12, 2019



# LOOKING FOR UNIQUE GIFTS?

Glassy Treasures and Gifts, located at SWWC ELC - Windom, creates unique glass gifts and home decor. Contact them about your gift needs at 507-831-6935. View additional items at [www.swsc.org/glassy](http://www.swsc.org/glassy).

