

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 20, 2020

Contacts:
Sheila Boyington
Sheila@ThinkingMedia.com
423-309-3667

Bringing Online STEM and Computer Science Career Awareness to MN Schools

Southwest West Central Cooperative (SWWC) is providing access to Learning Blade for a second year to provide schools with unlimited access to Learning Blade's online STEM and computer science curriculum. Through the LYFT Career Pathways Grant, SWWC is aiming to grow and revitalize CTE in middle and junior high schools by providing this effective robust STEM career awareness program.

Minnesota teachers can now join the tens of thousands students from 38 states that have completed lessons online in Learning Blade. The edtech platform offers online and offline interdisciplinary STEM and Computer Science career awareness lessons aligned to standards in grades 5-9. Learning Blade is validated in increasing student interest in and awareness of STEM and computer science careers.

Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Project Coordinator at the SWWC Service Cooperative noted "The SWWC is excited to provide Learning Blade to our schools in 2020-21 through our LYFT Pathways project. Students need to know there are tremendous opportunities in STEM and computer science fields. Learning Blade is an engaging resource to help students to see how classroom learning relates future STEM careers. The schools that piloted Learning Blade last year had very positive reports and we hope all of our schools register for their free license for the upcoming school year."

Learning Blade was piloted last school year and teachers provided positive feedback. "It gives kids a good idea about STEM careers and what you do with a STEM career. Going forward definitely something I will use." Says Mike Weisenberger, a teacher at Hutchinson Middle School. Ann Their from Adrian Middle School says, "The kids enjoyed it. They liked the independence of it."

Learning Blade's tool kit exposes students to the high demand STEM and computer science careers in an entertaining manner in an effort to increase student interest in these fields. Schools and organizations serving these age groups in the SWWC can sign up for this program at www.learningblade.com/mn. Educators will then unlock more than 200 hours of interactive, online activities and teacher lesson plans that engage students in human-centered problems that illustrate more than 100 careers and technologies in industries such as IT, Cybersecurity, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioengineering, Energy, Robotics, Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, and more.

In addition, schools can work toward winning a 3D printer if students complete 5,000 online lessons in a single school year. Learning Blade is proud to have 3D-printer sponsor, FlashForgeUSA, providing a free 3D printer (Adventure 3) to such successful schools. Although relatively new to Minnesota schools, Learning Blade has had impact on student's goals and future aspirations in many other states.

About Learning Blade

Learning Blade®, a product of Thinking Media, is a supplemental STEM and computer science toolbox of interactive online lessons, ready-to-use lessons plans and classroom activities proven to increase STEM and computer science career awareness for middle school students. Follow on Twitter and Facebook, @LearningBlade, or email info@learningblade.com for information.



About SWWC

SWWC is dedicated to providing unparalleled education and administrative services, innovative solutions and uncompromising support to our members and the communities we serve with integrity, respect and responsive action.

