East Central Minnesota Educational Cable Cooperative (ECMECC), Southwest West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC) and three school districts in the Northwest Links (NWLinks) region have been awarded $249,027 in the “Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program” administered by the USDA and the Rural Utilities Service.

This Rural Development investment will be used to purchase and install interactive video distance learning telecommunications equipment which will provide critically needed learning opportunities focused on workforce readiness, world language and college credit courses to secondary students, and provide access to video technology to provide experiential learning, student support services and other collaborative activities in elementary schools.

The following school districts in southwest and west central Minnesota are included in this grant:

- Adrian
- Canby
- Cedar Mountain
- Clarkfield Area Charter
- Comfrey
- E.C.H.O. Charter
- Edgerton
- Ellsworth
- Fulda
- Heron Lake – Okabena
- Hills-Beaver Creek
- Ivanhoe
- Jackson County Central
- Lake Benton
- Luverne
- Marshall
- Milroy
- Minneota
- Mountain Lake
- Murray County Central
- Pipestone Area
- Redwood Area
- Red Rock Central
- Round Lake-Brewster
- Sleepy Eye
- Tracy Area
- Wabasso
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove
- Windom
- Worthington

SWWC serves the 18 counties in Southwest and West Central Minnesota and is dedicated to providing unparalleled education and administrative services, innovative solutions and uncompromising support to their members and the communities they serve with integrity, respect and responsive action.