



WEDC Invests in Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools for Fab Lab Equipment

On May 13, 2019, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) announced that Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) is the recipient of a state grant to fund new fabrication laboratory (fab lab) facilities, which will equip Wisconsin students with essential skills for the 21st century's global economy. WRPS was awarded \$25,000 to create and enhance a fab lab at Lincoln High School.

"Over the last four years, WEDC has invested over \$2.1 million to provide 58 schools across the state the type of equipment needed to help students master the skills that are in high demand in the job market, including manufacturing, technology and engineering," said Mark R. Hogan, secretary and CEO of WEDC, the state's lead economic development organization. "These grants represent an important investment in education and workforce development to ensure that Wisconsin students have the skills and training they need to compete for the jobs of the 21st century."

Superintendent Craig Broeren is extremely pleased with the fab lab grant award. "This award will provide opportunities for WRPS students to be even more prepared to enter the work force, and assist not only our local workforce, but employers across the state who are in need of the skills that the fab lab grant allows public schools to help strengthen and develop in students."

Career & Technical Education Coordinator Eric Siler developed and wrote the grant for the District, which will be used to purchase a CNC milling machine at Lincoln High School to complement the robust Technology Education programming currently offered at the school.

Governor Evers has declared May 13th as Fab Lab Day in Wisconsin to celebrate the selection of this year's grant recipients as well as the accomplishments of previously existing fab labs around the state. Including WRPS, 20 school districts throughout the state are being awarded a total of more than \$500,000 in grants this year to establish or expand their fab labs. WEDC's Fab Labs Grant Program is designed to support hands-on learning in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) by assisting public school districts with equipment purchases such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers and plasma cutters for instructional and educational purposes.

Fab labs have the potential to benefit individual students, school districts, the surrounding community and Wisconsin's economy as a whole. For more information, visit www.InWisconsin.com/fablabs.

Congratulations, Lincoln Tech Ed!

