GOVERNOR’S
DEVELOPING YOUTH TALENT INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Nebraska’s STEM ecosystem offers rewarding opportunities for the future workforce. Meanwhile, firms across the state face a growing need for highly-skilled, tech-savvy professionals to keep pace with industry innovation. Launched by Governor Ricketts in 2015, the Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI) is inspiring the next generation of professionals to explore possibilities in STEM workforce, especially in Manufacturing, IT, Healthcare and Engineering occupations, connecting Nebraskans to high-paying careers while supplying a talent pipeline to promote industry growth.

Administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), DYTI grants support collaborations between local business with STEM occupations and Nebraska public schools. Together, DYTI partners develop and implement engaging, hands-on activities and curriculum to increase STEM occupation awareness, with a focus on Manufacturing, IT, Healthcare and Engineering occupations, interest and skills development among 7th and 8th grade students.

To date, DYTI has reached over 14,000 students across 67 school districts.

A total of 12 DYTI grants have been awarded to date.

Students who participate in DYTI report increased awareness and interest surrounding Manufacturing, IT, Healthcare and Engineering occupations, careers and coursework.

DYTI BASICS

- Grants will be awarded as Signature and Visionary Projects. Projects that are awarded $50,000 or more will be considered a Signature Project; projects that are awarded less than $50,000 will be considered a Visionary Project. Preference given to business consortiums, with one business designated as lead. One grant must be awarded to a rural county with a population of less than 100,000.

- Partners must collaborate to design and execute STEM, Manufacturing, or Healthcare curriculum for 7th and 8th grade students.

- Eligible grantees are Nebraska businesses in any industry with STEM, Manufacturing, or Healthcare occupations. Business must partner with at least one public school.

- Program design should be sustainable, with clear goals and outcomes and an evaluation plan.

“Hiring and retaining employees is a challenge in information technology. DYTI gives businesses like Hollman Media the opportunity to creatively build a talent pipeline to the future.”

TRAVIS HOLLMAN
PRESIDENT/MANAGING MEMBER,
HOLLMAN MEDIA, LLC

“Allowing students and teachers the opportunity to tour our facilities to see how machines work will spark their interest in manufacturing and how we use information technology to make it all work together. This exposure will encourage and excite them to be part of the manufacturing future.”

VINCENT AULICK
PRESIDENT/OWNER,
AULICK INDUSTRIES
Our DYTI partnership increased interest and enrollment in science and technical skills curriculum during the school year. This interest continues today, and is allowing manufacturers the opportunity to build relationships with future employees at the middle school and high school levels."

BOB WILSON
DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER, FLOWSERVE CORPORATION

For more information, visit opportunity.nebraska.gov.
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