

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Technology and Trades on the Prairie (TTOP) is committed to providing unique opportunities for students to explore, experience, and excel in the technical skills needed for our workforce, today and tomorrow. We envision regional workforce needs met through industry, education, and community partnerships committed to increasing student success in Southwest Minnesota technology and trades careers.

TTOP's 2022 Career Institute (4th Annual) for students going into grades 7-12 will be held at the Orrin S. Estebo Career Development & Training Center located in the Redwood Valley High School in Redwood Falls, MN on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Each day will kick off at 8:00 AM.

This year's careers to explore will be hosted by post-secondary and industry partners using interactive and project based learning focusing on Construction, Plumbing, Electrical, Law Enforcement, Medical Careers, Information Technology, Agriculture, Powerline, Graphic Design, Photography and so much more. We are thrilled to welcome Schult Homes, Schwartz Farms, Altimate Medical, Farmward, Minnesota West Community and Technical College and Ridgewater Community and Technical College just to name some of the facilitators.

Increasing student interest in local careers and building connections for students and business through support and engagement of one another is an outcome we seek from the Career Institute. We believe the Career Insitute has the capacity for connection building to occur between students and employers encouraging students to remain or return to the area ultimately creating a pool of highly motivated and local skilled employee candidates for our local businesses.

We are inviting businesses, community members, parents, educators, and more to come over to observe and and learn more about how you, your business, student, or school can be part of the 2022 Career Insittute or support Technology and Trades on the Prairie's goals and objectives.

We are accepting student registrations through July 5, 2022. To register, please visit our website at [www.prairiecareers.com](http://www.prairiecareers.com) There is limited space, and money to be won every day, so get registered today!

### **About Technology and Trades on the Prairie, Inc.**

Technology and Trades on the Prairie (TTOP) is committed to providing unique opportunities for students to explore, experience, and excel in the technical skills needed for our workforce, today and tomorrow. We envision regional workforce needs met through industry, education, and community partnerships committed to increasing student success in Southwest Minnesota technology and trades careers.

To be a part of the larger community effort to improve the future of Southwest Minnesota by:

- Developing Career Institutes that create an awareness among high school students of career opportunities focused on technology and trades in Southwest Minnesota.

- Providing scholarships to encourage and support students in pursuit of careers requiring technical education.
- Providing opportunities for local employers to interact with and support students as their potential future workforce, promoting the benefits of working and living in Southwest Minnesota.

#### Outcomes we Seek:

- Meeting local workforce needs through industry, education, and community partnerships that support our region's young adults.
- Creating a pool of highly motivated and skilled employee candidates for our regional workforce.
- Building connections for graduating students that encourage them to remain or to return to the area.

Board Members of TTOP include: Sadie Reiners- Farmward Cooperative (Morgan); Ally Carlson-Redwood Valley Schools (Redwood Falls); Pat Dingels- RADC (Redwood Falls); Eriann Faris-Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (Marshall, Montevideo, Worthington); and Scott Thomas-Schult Homes.

Technology and Trades on the Prairie is made possible by: Farmers Union Industries Foundation; Farmward Cooperative & AgQuest; Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative; MinnWest Bank; Thrivent Financial; CoBank; Cenex Harvest States (CHS); Land O' Lakes, Redwood Area Learning Center; and The Southwest Initiative Foundation.