

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEDC invests in The Iola-Scandinavia School District for fab lab equipment

Iola – The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) announced today that the Iola-Scandinavia School District 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. The Iola-Scandinavia School District was awarded \$25,000 to create a fab lab.

"Fab labs provide students throughout Wisconsin with access to the hands-on experience and training necessary to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow and beyond," Governor Tony Evers said. "We're glad to be awarding these funds to 21 school districts today so they can establish or expand their fab lab programs, which continue to benefit entire communities across our state by fostering collaboration, bolstering access to technology, encouraging innovation, and inspiring the next generation of leaders."

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.

"WEDC has invested over \$3.9 million for the past seven years to provide 106 school districts across the state with the equipment necessary to help students learn high-demand skills, including technology, manufacturing and engineering," said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC. "Fab labs benefit not only the students themselves with important technology and career skills, but they also benefit Wisconsin employers, who will be able to find workers with the right skills to allow their companies to grow and thrive."

Including the Iola-Scandinavia School District, 21 school districts throughout the state are being awarded a total of \$508,030 in Fab Lab grants this year to establish or expand their fab labs.

"This grant will provide our students and community with upgrades to our Technology Education classroom. The upgrades will give our students opportunities to develop the skills needed to succeed in today's workforce." Ray Przekurat, District Administrator.

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 WEDC's [fab lab resource page](#) or follow #WIFabLab on Twitter.

About the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than 600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit wedc.org or follow WEDC on Twitter [@WEDCNews](https://twitter.com/WEDCNews) to learn more.