Solving the Rural Education Crisis

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Rural Service District

- Our district serves:
  - 3,800 square miles
  - Five counties
  - 30 public K-12 districts

- Located in Fennimore, WI = pop. 2,000 residents

- Current enrollment of 1,300 FTEs
Economic Impact

• Located in Fennimore, WI (population of 2,000)
• Economic Impact in Region tops $159.3 million
• 1 out of 24 jobs in Southwest Wisconsin is supported by the activities of Southwest Tech and its students.
Core Service Industries

Top Industries Impacted by Southwest Tech (Jobs Supported)

- Healthcare & Social Assistance
- Government, Non-Education
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting
- Other Services (Except Public Administration)
- Manufacturing
Pain Points

• Education equity gap

• More jobs than we have people

• Brain drain
Solution Planning

• Team

• Data Driven Decisions

• Budget
Partnership between CESA 3, Southwest Tech, and area businesses, including Southwest Health Center, to offer a sequence of program-specific and general education courses at the high school to students through a combination of online and synchronous lecture (with the exception of lab-related courses)
What are our students saying...
“I enjoy that I have a different routine than the normal 8 hr class load, like I’ve had in the past. I have been able to learn more math techniques. I have become better friends with (my classmates).”
“There are a lot of things that I like about this program, but the thing that I like the most is how hands-on it is. One thing that I have learned in this class is how to properly pipet. I am glad I joined this program because it is literally 16 free college credits, and I thought that it would be a cool experience.”
2019-2020 CollEDGE Up Program Areas

- Gear Up (General Education Transferable Courses)
- 11-12-14 Nursing
- ONE – AND – Done Laboratory Science
Formula for Success

- Location of the learning
- Alternative Learning
- Billing
- Wrap Around Support
- Employer breakfast recognition
2-Year Growth of CollEDGE Up

188% growth in number of students enrolled and 146% increase in total credits since fall 2018-2019!
Districts Participating in CollEDGE Up

Year One: 5/30
Year Two: 16/30
Year Three: 18/30
Lesson Learned

Value Continuous Improvement
Summary

1. Study your data – know your gaps
2. Have the right people on your team
3. Know your audience
4. Key Health Indicators
5. Lessons Learned
Get thinking!