



ROB SWEARINGEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 34th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Office: (608) 266-7141
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0034
Rep.Swearingen@legis.wi.gov

Room 19 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

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CONTACT: STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROB SWEARINGEN

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(608) 266-7141

Northwoods Schools Receive State Grants for Two Additional Fab Labs

Madison- Today, Rep. Rob Swearingen (R- Rhinelander) is pleased that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation allocated funding to 25 Wisconsin schools for Fabrication Labs [including four schools in his district.](#)

Fabrication Laboratories also known as "Fab Labs," are small scale workshops that include modern, high-tech equipment, such as 3-D printers for digital fabrication. Funding for Fab Labs was created within the 2015-17 budget with the creation of the Wisconsin Fab Labs Grant Program. The funding made available within the state budget will help aid the funding for two additional Fab Labs in 34th Assembly District, while providing funds to two existing Fab Labs.

"During my first two terms in office, I have been proud to welcome the grand openings of the Three Lakes School District and Florence County School District Fab Labs in 2014 and 2015 respectively. It is great news that additional Northwoods' schools will be equipped with highly technical laboratories," said Rep. Swearingen.

The four schools in the 34th Assembly District that received grants for Fab Labs include: the School District of Rhinelander, Northland Pines School District, Three Lakes School District and Florence County School District.

District Administrator of Northland Pines, Mike Richie, states that, ***"It is an honor to have been selected to receive a Fab Lab Grant. This will not only give our high school/middle school students additional career paths in manufacturing and Tech Ed, it will also benefit the curriculum offerings for all students K-12. In addition, we will be able to provide these opportunities to our community members as well. I would like to thank the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for having the foresight to make these grants available to school districts. The grants will enhance the curriculum and career paths of students in 25 districts across the state."***

Wisconsin will become home to the greatest number of Fab Labs in the country with a total of 33 labs throughout the state.

I would like to thank all of the school superintendents that worked diligently with industry partners along with my office to accomplish a private-public partnership between business leaders and school districts," concluded Rep. Swearingen.

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