

# What are Career Bridges?

## A program overview for students and parents

Cass Lake-Bena's Career Bridges in partnership with the Bridges Career Academy and Workplace Connection Program were created to help the next generation of workforce become better prepared to meet the demands of local employers.

**Career Bridges** are courses focusing on career pathways. Courses provide hands-on learning activities combining technical, academic, and employability skills related to a specific career. Career Bridges offer students the opportunity to explore a career pathway through courses delivered by high school instructors with support from industry representatives through a variety of activities.

The Bridges Career Academy and Workplace Connection Program builds **Career Awareness** efforts include the annual Career Exploration Day and a video library featuring high demand regional careers. The **Bridges Program's Career Experiences** connects schools and businesses to integrate work-based learning through career camps, business tours, a speaker's bureau, and the Career Depot — a jobs website exclusively for 14-18-year olds.

### How do students enroll in a Career Bridge?

Career Bridges are offered to students in grades 9-12. Students should contact their Career Pathway and Work Experience Coordinator for more information. Students and parents are encouraged to check the student registration guide for detailed information regarding the courses.

### How will a Career Bridge help a student after graduation?

Some include courses that receive college credit. These courses provide opportunities for credit advancement/transfer to a post-secondary program.

For more information, contact your Career Pathway and Work Experience Coordinator:

**Sarah Larson**  
slarson@isd115.net  
(218) 335-2204, x1324



### Current Career Bridges at Cass Lake - Bena

- PLTW-Engineering
- Sports Fitness
- Visual Arts
- Indigenous Studies
- Ojibwe Language

*See Benefits for Students  
on other side*



# What are the Benefits for Students?

## 1) Supports Individualized Learning Plans

Career Bridges courses are organized in specific career pathways. Courses integrate academic and technical skills with hands-on learning. Students select courses based on career aspirations.

## 2) Practical Learning Opportunities

Career Bridges provide practical learning opportunities within the course work. Students gain transferable skills that can be used beyond the school day. (For example, students in a Welding Career Bridge use technical skill to repair snowmobiles or four-wheelers. Students in a Hospitality Career Bridge can use team-building skills in a community project).

## 3) Career Advancement

Bridges Career Academies provide students with information about their chosen career pathway. Students develop an understanding of career progression and are exposed to personalized experiences within the “world of work.”

## 4) Integrated Learning

Career Bridge courses provide integrated learning combining technical, academic and employability skills essential to specific career pathways. (For example, Engineering students learn electronics needed to design a robot, mathematics to complete design calculations, writing strategies to record design elements and participate as a member of a design team.)

## 5) Recognition

Students who complete a Career Bridge will be recognized at their high school with a certificate and a green honor cord.

## 6) College Credit

Some Career Bridges include courses that receive college credit. These courses provide opportunities for credit advancement and/or transfer to a post-secondary program.

## 7) Business and Industry Partnerships

All Career Bridges provide students with opportunities to engage with business and industry.

