

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wisconsin Invests in the School District of South Milwaukee for Fab Lab Equipment

[South Milwaukee] – Thanks to Governor Scott Walker’s 2015-17 biennial budget investment in the Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Program, the School District of South Milwaukee has the ability to fund new fabrication laboratory facilities, which will bring Wisconsin students into the 21st Century’s global economy. The School District of South Milwaukee was awarded \$25,000 this year to expand our Fab Lab.

“Guaranteeing our students have the skills necessary to compete in our rapidly-growing, technology-driven world is critical to our economy,” Governor Walker said. “Fab Labs provide hands-on learning to the next generation of workers to provide our students with the skills they need to obtain good-paying jobs. This ensures everyone who wants a job in Wisconsin can find a job.”

In his 2015-17 biennial budget, Governor Walker implemented the Fab Labs Program, making \$500,000 available to School Districts through WEDC. In response to an overwhelming number of applications, WEDC was able to leverage the flexibility of its program funding to move an additional \$101,000 to the initiative, allowing awards for 25 School Districts, including the School District of South Milwaukee.

WEDC’s Fab Labs Program requires matching funds from each School District and is designed to prepare students for manufacturing jobs in the future. WEDC recently announced the statewide recipients of its Fab Lab funding to support the purchase of Fab Lab equipment for instructional and educational purposes by elementary, middle, junior, or high school students.

Under the leadership of Technology and Engineering department, South Milwaukee High School has already installed several pieces of equipment and implemented their use in the curriculum. Students have learned the entire engineering process, taking their ideas through to the design and prototype stages. They have used 3D printers, a CNC milling machine, and a small laser engraver to create unique parts for hydraulic arms for the National Fluid Power Challenge, to create mementos for local veterans, and toys for the Toys for Tots program and South Milwaukee Human Concerns. With the additional support that the WEDC grant is providing, the School District of South Milwaukee will be able to expand what students can do in high school, and also further support the development of teaching the engineering process at the elementary and middle school levels.

South Milwaukee Principal Beth Kaminski is excited about this opportunity, noting that, "having the opportunity to create a fab lab at SMHS will provide us the venue to further the development of our students' knowledge and skills, exposing them to a community of sharing, enabling them to create the solutions to tomorrow's problems." Fab Lab funding gives Wisconsin students hands-on experience, allowing them to put into practice concepts they have learned in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses.

Fab Labs have the potential to benefit individual students, School Districts, and Wisconsin's economy as a whole. For more information, visit www.inwisconsin.com/fablabs.

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About the School District of South Milwaukee

The School District of South Milwaukee is comprised of four elementary schools serving students in grades 4K-5, a middle school serving grades 6-8, and a high school serving grades 9-12. In addition to comprehensive curricular offerings, each school is supported by guidance counselors, an alcohol and drug abuse prevention program, opportunities for gifted and talented students and special education services.

The needs of our 3,300 students are met by approximately 250 professional staff and over 100 support staff members. The District, governed by a seven member elected School Board, supports its programs with an annual budget of approximately \$33.5 million dollars.

Our district has a solid reputation throughout the metropolitan area as a district committed to quality education. Our reputation has been built on our comprehensive, progressive program of educational opportunities for all of our students.

Educational responsibility is concentrated in five basic areas, covering academic skills, physical skills, aesthetic skills, career training, and preparation for further education. The goal of this program is to make students knowledgeable, sensitive, and responsible. Parents and other community residents are invited and encouraged to participate in this program.

About the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing Wisconsin's business climate. WEDC nurtures business growth and job creation by providing resources, technical support and financial assistance to companies, partners and communities in Wisconsin. WEDC has four focus areas: business and industry development, economic and community development, entrepreneurship and innovation and international business development. Together with more than 600 regional and local business development partners, it represents a highly responsive and coordinated network. Visit www.InWisconsin.com or follow WEDC on Twitter [@ InWisconsin](https://twitter.com/InWisconsin) to learn more.