

**Willie Spelts**

**Director of School to Work Engagement and Fundraising Coordinator**

**Rock Ridge Public Schools**

**May 11, 2026 - School Board Presentation**

**Northeast Service Cooperative Impact Grant recipients**

Rock Ridge High School CTE Instructors have received **\$19,218.19**.

**GREAT WORK BY THESE TEACHERS!**

The following people have received significant grants from the NESC Impact Grant Program:

- **Mary Rantala, RRHS Healthcare Pathway Instructor**
  - **\$4,852.01 for:**
    - BLS CPR Supplies:
    - WorldPoint Products® CPR Taylor® (3-in-1 Adult & Child) - \$699.99
    - WorldPoint Products® Baby Tyler® - \$609.99
    - WNL Adult/Child Practi-Mask® - Pack of 10 with valves - \$34.99
    - WNL Practi-VALVE® CPR Training Valves - Pack of 55 - \$51.99
    - WNL AED Practi-TRAINER® Essentials - Pack of 4 - \$428.99
    - Vital Sign Measurement Supplies:
    - Welch Allyn 01690-200 SureTemp Plus Model 690 Electronic Thermometer, Oral Probe
    - \$299.99 x 2 = \$599.98
    - Welch Allyn Oral Disposable Probe Covers for SureTemp Plus 692 & 690, Case of 1000 = \$41.00
    - Realityworks BP Simulator - \$1,798.49
    - ADC Adscope 613 Teaching Stethoscope - 89.99 each x 2 = \$179.98
    - 3M Littmann Cardiology IV Diagnostic Stethoscope - \$165.74 X 2 = \$331.48
    - Manual Blood Pressure Monitor, Professional Sphygmomanometer with Adult Cuff 8"-17"- \$29.99 x 2 = \$59.98
    - Total Requested amount = \$4852.01
- **James Eicholz, RRHS Manufacturing Pathway Instructor**
  - **\$4,500 for:**
    - Buying the **Miller Multi Matic 220 Wedler** will help my students learn 3 different welding processes including MIG, TIG, and SMAW. All of these processes are used heavily in local industry and would serve my students for years to come.
- **Greg Foster, RRHS Construction Pathway Instructor**
  - **\$5,000 for:**
    - Concrete Tools and Equipment - \$5000
    - Bull Float Kits - \$1000
    - Concrete Hand tools \$1000
    - Aluminum Screeds - \$750

- Concrete Texture Roller - \$1500
  - Concrete Sprayer - \$250
  - Concrete Knee Boards/Boots - \$500
- **David Fyre, RRHS Construction Pathway Instructor**
  - **\$4,866.18**
    - Masterforce® 20-Volt Brushless Cordless Jig Saw - Tool Only \$130.00 8qty
    - Masterforce® Ultra Compact 20-Volt Brushless Cordless 1/2" Drill & 1/4" Impact Driver Combo Kit \$179.99 10qty
    - Masterforce® 20-Volt Cordless Brushless Variable Speed Fixed Base Compact Router - Tool Only \$99.99 10qty
    - Masterforce® Ultra Compact 20-Volt Brushless Cordless 3" Cut-Off Saw - Tool Only \$119.99 2qty
    - Masterforce® 20-Volt Lithium-Ion 2.0Ah Battery & Charger Kit \$78.64 10qty
    - Total \$4,866.18
- **State Basketball Fan Bus Funding**
  - A HUGE thank you to the Eveleth Elks Lodge for their generous donation of \$750 to help fund the student fan buses to the State Girls Basketball Tournament. Appreciate Jen Evenson and the Eveleth Elks Lodge as they are incredibly supportive of Rock Ridge! Thank you! Also, great work by the Rock Ridge Basketball Boosters for leading this charge!
- **Wolverine Mascot**
  - A FIERCE thank you to Lundgren Ford for their creation and donation of the Wolverine Mascot to Rock Ridge Public Schools. It was so cool to see it debut at the Hockey Section playoffs and then to see it at the State Girls Basketball Games. Huge thanks to Laura Hughes for initiating this!



○ *Photo credit: Mesabi Tribune*

- **Essentia Lab to Strasser**
  - Tuesday, March 24th, Essentia Labs were in the RRHS Science Wing showing all the different sciences involved in working in a Healthcare Lab.
- **John Mayasich Golden Bear Foundation Curling Bonspiel**
  - What an incredible weekend for Rock Ridge Public Schools. The Golden Bear Foundation hosted a 40 team curling bonspiel at Curl Mesabi and knocked it out

of the park! What a great group of people who raise money for staff and students at Rock Ridge Public Schools. Over \$100,000 came in over the weekend. Special thanks to the Golden Bear foundation committee.

- The spring grant cycle for funds from the Golden Bear Foundation has commenced. Teachers can apply for needs and wants from the Foundation.
- **Great Field Trip to OTSO screen printing in Eveleth on 3/19** with Mr. Foster and his iDesign class. We learned a ton about the process of designing and producing t-shirts with screen printing. The kids were highly engaged and got to screen print their own shirt.
- **Soroptimist Dream it Be It; Career Support for Girls**
  - April 21, 2026.
  - Appreciate all of the work that this wonderful group does to host this event for our Rock Ridge Girls. An outstanding panel of speakers from career areas like: Culinary, Vet Tech, Small Business owner, Paramedic, Police, Pediatric Nurse. Nearly 50 Rock Ridge female students attended; our most ever for this annual event.
- **We hosted a massive Engineering Expo** in conjunction with Iron Range Engineering(IRE) on March 20 at Rock Ridge High School. Our facility is just spectacular for events this large. 40+ booths filled with Engineering professionals set up and shared their knowledge with our students. Thank you to everyone for their flexibility in schedule changes and also to the custodians for their work in setting up for this event.
- **In working with Keith Peterson**, Deep Winter Greenhouse leader, we have secured a **\$50,000** grant from Lake Country Power for the building of this facility at Rock Ridge High School.
  - **HUGE thanks to the Lake Country Power Education Improvement Program.** This is a ton of money that will help get this built! Thanks to Noel for going to Cromwell to receive the award as I was on the Foster field trip.
- **Rantala brings RRHS Healthcare students to Essentia in Duluth**
  - On March 27, Mary Rantala brought 20+ students on a tour of the new Essentia Hospital in Duluth. What a great experience for our Healthcare Pathway students!
- **Foster and Spelts attend two union Training Centers**
  - I joined Greg Foster on tours of the 49ers Training Facility and the Laborers Union Training Center in Hinckley and Shoreview, respectively. A tremendous

learning experience for us to better prepare our students for these opportunities. Fully grant funded.

- **Academy, Pathway, and Capstone registration for graduation recognition and distinction** (Hand out)
  - Seniors have registered to inquire about qualifying for these RRHS graduation distinctions.
    - 62 students have qualified, YAY! These students will receive a purple cord for Pathway Proficiency, a cream cord for Capstone Completion, or a green stole for Academy Achievement.
    - **Pathway Proficient:** Complete six courses in one of the Academies(below). Some students earned in more than one Academy.
      - 41 students
    - **Capstone Completion:** Complete an approved Capstone Project
      - 22 students
    - **Academy Achievement:** Student earned both Pathway Proficiency and Capstone Completion.
      - 13 Students

Academies earned by student:

Natural Resources, Engineering, Manufacturing, Architecture, & Construction Academy	Business, IT, Communications, & Arts Academy	Health Sciences & Human Services Academy
19 Students	12 Students	32 Students

- **Foster sets up tours for students:**
  - Greg Foster set up tours of Marvin Windows and Polaris in Warroad and Roseau for 20+ RRHS students in the CTE department. Incredible tours of these facilities and direct opportunities for our students to see the opportunities/careers available and in action. It was an overnigher and the students loved it. I was fortunate to join this trip. Phenomenal!



- **Hammer's Ethics Workshop**
  - Great work by Mr. Hammer to provide an Ethics Workshop for our students. Students were recommended by teachers as quality candidates who should attend. We appreciate the support from the Iron Range Rotary, Joe Uhan to be

specific. Their financial support made it possible to bring in an expert speaker for the day.

- **Andrie and Flavor of the North**

- Culinary Instructor, Jade Andrie, entered her Culinary students into the United Way Flavor of the North again this year. The event took place at Curl Mesabi in Eveleth and boasts to be the biggest food competition in the area. Huge thanks to her for doing this! Our students entered Lasagna in the Main Entree competition and Tiramisu Cupcakes for the Dessert competition. Fantastic performance by our students and Mrs. Andrie. I was still on the Warroad/Roseau trip but was able to race to the event when we got home. **We were voted 3rd place in the Main Entree category!**



- **St. Louis County Protective Factors Grant**

- I have submitted a reimbursement from the County in the amount of \$15,515.96 for the 1/1/2026-3/31/2026 fiscal quarter. These are costs that can be reimbursed, including another \$10,000 directly for my salary.

- **Friday, May 1 - Courthouse Tour and Learning**

- I joined teachers Krebs, Ellefson, and Deedrick with 60+ RRHS students attending a day at the Virginia Courthouse. Great work by these teachers to go on this field trip and provide this opportunity for our students. Huge thank you to Judge Anderson and her staff for the great learning and hospitality!

- **Recently met with the Golden Bear Foundation** to approve +/- \$10,000 worth of grants to our teachers and coaches. THANK YOU!

- What a great group of people!

- **New, updated signage** going up on the JV Baseball Field

- Paid for by Safelite(fka City Auto Glass), on May 4.

- **Dan Biondich car donation for Eicholz classes**

- We appreciate our community members checking in with us to see if we are interested in items that match our learning experiences. Thank you!

- **James Eicholz' students compete at Boulder Lake hosted by Lake Superior College.**

- Mr. Eicholz is bringing 20+ students to a Fishing Grub Competition at Lake

Superior College on May 22 to compete against other schools in the region. Way to go Mr. Eicholz and good luck! Students made an injection mold for plastics designed on Solid Works. Students designed their own lures(Fishing Plastics) through the injection mold process.

- Purpose: Trying to get more schools involved in Machining. Mr. E is working with the College Prof at LSC and has been for over three years.

- **Huge THANK YOU to Ulland Bros** for the donation and delivery of 14+ yards of quality sand/dirt fill at the future Laurentian Storage building (14' x 20") being built by Greg Foster and his Building Construction class students. Great work by Mr. Foster on the fantastic partnership with Ulland. Brook Donnelly(Alum and Ulland connection) was instrumental in achieving this donation. Mr. Foster has truly developed a working partnership for the students and the RRHS Building Construction program at RRHS.



End of my presentation. Next up: Capstone Completion Presentation.

- **Capstone Presentation**

- I am proud to present two senior students, **Emma Lintula and Samantha Bartovich**, who will be presenting to you as a part of the Capstone Completion. This is their final step to earn this distinction. Emma and Samantha...