

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS  
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

**DATE:** AUGUST 16, 2021

**TO:** BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM:** COLLEEN CARDENUTO, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST TO ACCEPT GRANT

**COMMENTS:**

**Type of Grant:** PAYA New America

**Title of Grant:** Youth Apprentice Voice Design Sprint

**Granter:** Bemidji Career Academies

**Grant Preparer:** Brian Stefanich –Bemidji Career Academies Coordinator

**Amount of Grant:** \$5,000

**District Responsibility:** Serve as fiscal agent

**Purpose:** New America launched the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (“PAYA”), a multi-year initiative to support the expansion of high-quality apprenticeship opportunities for high school-age students in states and cities and across a broad range of industry sectors. To implement PAYA, New America is focused on helping states and cities develop a comprehensive strategy that leverages lessons learned from peer efforts. To support this objective, New America will fund Bemidji Career Academies to participate in and lead a working design team focused on engaging youth perspectives on the needs and interests of youth in career pathways, as well as identifying innovative practices for youth engagement by co-designing effective, equitable recruitment processes that reach diverse populations, particularly students of color and those who are most underrepresented in career pathway initiatives and strategies.