



SITE REPORT: BRANCH OUT

Presented by: By Rachel Johnston, Special Education Supervisor
October 6, 2025 School Board Meeting



WHO WE ARE



OUR MISSION

Branch Out is a Special Education Transition Program for students up to age 22 who have finished high school programming but need extra support as they transition into independence and adulthood. We focus on the three areas of Transition as defined by MDE:

- Independent Living
- Jobs / Job Training
- Post-Secondary Education



INDEPENDENT LIVING

It is our goal to get our learners into the community for recreation and leisure activities at least once per month. Other independent living skills we work on include cooking and completing household chores.



WORKFORCE TRAINING



Current work experiences include Thompson Park Activity Center, Coffee Cart, Sanctuary, Bobby & Steve's, Moreland IMC, Garlough Park Frisbee Golf

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Our students continue to experience post-secondary education opportunities at Dakota County Technical College.





POINTS OF PRIDE



TWO NEW TEACHERS

When you only have two teachers in a program, having two new ones in the same year is kind of a big deal!



Karen Bird (left) and Lauren Meyer (right)

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

Changing programming at DCTC led to a new partnership with Two Rivers High School



STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Clubs
- Committees
- Site managers
- REAL Program Talent Show
- Holiday Boutique





LOOKING AHEAD



NEW JOB SITES

**New Work-Based Learning
Coordinator Carrie Garcia**



New Job Sites for 2025-2026

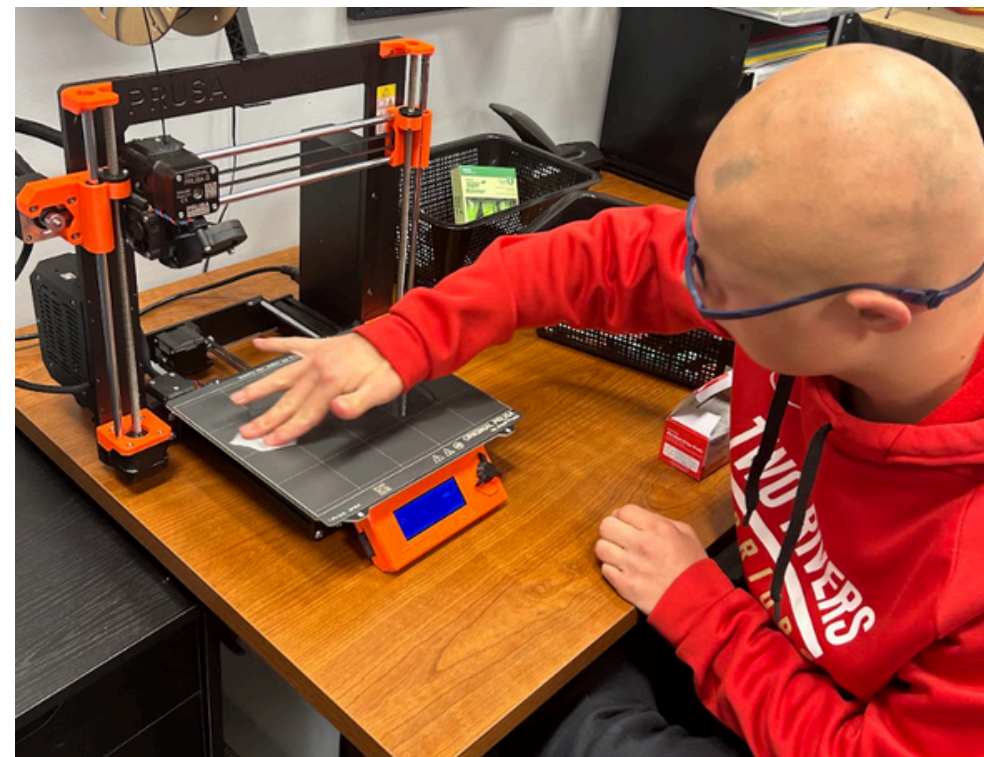
- Gallagher's Bar and Grill
- **Amore Coffee**
- **The Clothes Line laundromat**
- **El Destino Market (Spanish speakers)**
- Angelo's Pizza - South St. Paul
- Knowlan's Supermarket - South St. Paul
- **Oxendale's Market**

*Sites confirmed are bolded, and will start in October.
Others are in the works.*

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER



Dr. Jennifer Veenendall
Assistive Technology Specialist and
Occupational Therapy Lead



STUDENT VOICE

**Class of 2026 graduate
Emily Waters**





THANK YOU!

