

# MN STEM Equity Pipeline & MN New Look Newsletter

April 2010

Saint Paul's Career Pathways Academy, a project supported by STEM Equity Pipeline-MN funds and resources, was featured in Kare 11's What's Cool in School. This excerpt is reprinted from the [website](#).

### **Saint Paul's Career Pathways Academy is Cool for High Schools by [Kim Insley](#)**

Saint Paul, Minn. -- Saint Paul Public Schools is in its second year of a partnership with Saint Paul College that is giving high school students a leg up on their college studies.

Career Pathways Academy offers high school students a chance to take college level courses at the community college in areas of engineering, manufacturing, health services, information technology, business and more, and earn both college and high school credit.

It differs from the states so-called post secondary option because these courses are for high school students only, and generally have high school teachers who work with college staff.

Students using the post secondary option take regular college courses with college students.

"Students basically come here during their junior and senior year," said Peggy Kennedy, who is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Development at Saint Paul College.

"It's a competitive process. The school district does a really good job of choosing students that they know will succeed in this program," said Kennedy.

The students they are after are those not served in either gifted or special education programs.



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## Inside This Issue

- 1 Cool Career Academy
  - 2 Final Report Due Date
  - 3 Showcase Symposium Information
  - 4
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## Cool Career Academy continued

Kennedy calls them the "students in the middle," who could benefit from some extra direction, or a chance to start over on a career or academic direction.

Jill Johnson oversees STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs within the Saint Paul School District. She also teaches engineering at Career Pathways Academy.

Johnson says it's proving to be a real stepping stone from high school into college.

"I had 19 students last spring semester," said Johnson, "18 of them were enrolled in the engineering colleges around the state of Minnesota. One went into computer science, which is still very good," Johnson said.

Kennedy said Saint Paul College is hoping some of those students might come back to that school, making Career Pathways Academy a good way to recruit students, like Alex Escarcega, a senior at Highland Park High School.

"I want to go to community college because their classes are smaller," said Escarcega.

"Now that I'm in this class, I found out that Saint Paul College just got an engineering program, so I may come here next year."

Students take these classes tuition-free thanks to grant money.

This story, plus a video showcasing students in the Career Pathways Academy, is available at [http://www.kare11.com/life/community/schools/cool-school/cool-school\\_article.aspx?storyid=842957&catid=148](http://www.kare11.com/life/community/schools/cool-school/cool-school_article.aspx?storyid=842957&catid=148)



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## Showcase Symposium

**May 27**

*In Conjunction with*

**CAO/CSAO/Deans**

**Spring 2010 Conference**

**St. Paul College**

**8:00-5:00**

Sites are asked to bring materials for a poster session.

### Tentative Agenda

8:00	Registration
8:30	SAGE Works: Student Achievement Grounded in Equity
10:40	Equity Showcase: Concurrent Session for Academic and Student Affairs Showcase
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Equity Showcase: Sharing Ideas with Other Teams
1:30	5 Step Program Improvement Process: Review and Reflect
2:00	Small Group Discussion: Root Causes
2:45	Minnesota STEM & Equity issues and Initiatives
3:15	FY11 Local and State Equity Planning
4:00	State Team Planning Meeting

The MN STEM Equity Pipeline /MN New Look Showcase Symposium will provide existing and prospective site teams with opportunities to network, to receive resources, and to gain innovative ideas from other sites. In addition, teams will be asked to reflect on their experience with the 5 Step Program Improvement process.

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## Resources

[All-female team pours heart and soul into car-building contest](#) By Eric Stevick, Herald Writer  
 GRANITE FALLS — The ShopGirls, as they call themselves, wanted a name that had some heft. Neither Gertrude, Betsy nor Edna was substantial enough. For the nine Granite Falls High School students, the forest green and hot pink car they designed, engineered and built from scratch needed a bold name. They wanted something with an attitude that would reflect the hours they spent molding metal and the pride they have in being an all-girl team. Their car would be called the Iron Maiden. <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100321/NEWS01/703219917/-1/NEWS#All-f>



[Surgical Tech Careers in High Demand](#) The latest issue of ACTE's Techniques magazine highlights a surgical technology program that allows students to "immediately enter the workforce making \$12 to \$16 per hour, [and] can also serve as a starting point for any number of medical careers" including nursing. Surgical technology is a field that is non-traditional for males, as is nursing. [Read more](#) about this "high demand" program. Learn more about [non-traditional for gender careers](#), or view a [list of careers non-traditional for males](#).

[Funding: Why Money Is Missing When It Comes To Creating and Sustaining Female Leaders in High Tech](#) The Glass Hammer Recently, the New York Times reported on the lack of access to funding for women playing in the start-up environment of Silicon Valley. The numbers reveal just how underrepresented both professional executive women and female entrepreneurs are, citing that women account for just 6% of CEOs of the 100 top tech companies. Women create only 8% of venture capital money to fund tech companies – despite women owned businesses providing 40% of the US's company revenues. In fact, in 2009, Techcrunch's The Funded list included only one woman. <http://www.theglasshammer.com/news/2010/05/06/funding-why-money-is-missing-when-it-comes-to-creating-and-sustaining-female-leaders-in-high-tech/>

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