Providing the Opportunity to Discover, Explore, and Learn Skilled Trades
Necessity is the Mother of Invention

- Plato
INDUSTRY

• Show Up
  • Show Up On Time
  • Show Up with No Phone
  • Show Up Ready to Work

FRUSTRATION, PREJUDICE
CANDIDATES

• No cubicles

• Variety

• Decent living (not “get rich”)

• **Why stay in this stupid town?**

• **Trades are for dumb kids**

FRUSTRATION, PREJUDICE
SOCIETY

- Education debt
- Millennials want it all
- No one wants to work anymore
- Trades are great... *for your kid*

FRUSTRATION, PREJUDICE
PERCEIVED NEEDS

• Highlight & re-educate on career opportunities to *all* high school students, adult learners, & their supporters

• Connect learners to trades professionals

• Modernize perception of skilled trades
START SOMEWHERE:
MN Community Education Platform

• All school districts
• Facilities are for public use
• District absorbs liability
• 20% registration cost
TWEAK the SYSTEM:

MN Community Education Platform

• Short (2-hour classes in 1-, 2-, or 4-night format)
• Teach even if only one student registers
• Economical
• Hands-On, *useful* project
• *Local tradesmen as instructors*
• Industry and school facilities
• Departure packets providing “next steps” & industry-specific hiring information
Mike & The Mechanics

Word of Mouth
Trades Defined:

• Does not require a university degree
• Financially viable
• Provides upward progression for personal & financial growth
• Readily available positions
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BIPartner Trades:
Welding, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Automotive, Aviation/Avionics, Floral Design, Upholstery/Reupholstery, Culinary Arts, Masonry, CAD, Mechatronics
Virtual Technology for Engagement & Equitable Learning

• Immediate attention grab & conversation starter
• Requires only 110 volt outlet, minimal prep, & no shop or consumables
• Technology is easily trained
• Virtual Reality skills are highly transferrable to real equipment
• Learning curve is dramatically flattened
How Do You Start?

NEEDED:
Facilities = Schools &/or Industry
Instructors = Trades Professionals
Support = Voice, Financial, Committed
WE PROVIDE

• Organizing Leadership
• Implementation Guide
• Marketing & Promotion
• Ongoing Support
• For-Hire Supplementation
YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

EXTERNALLY

• Direct involvement in talent pipeline
• First look & connection
• Motivated candidates
• Strengthens community ties to you
YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

**EXTERNALLY**

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**INTERNALLY**

- Recognition for staff chosen to teach
- Freshens staff work flow
- Creates training opportunities
- Strengthens ties to your community
School districts, organizations interested in trades with limited resources
Big Ideas, Inc.

- 9 N Minnesota Street
- New Ulm, MN 56073
- 1-866-992-4443
- www.BigIdeasUSA.org
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Skilled Trades Classes

- Carpentry, Welding, Sewing, Plumbing, Home Repair, Aviation, Upholstery, Drones, Floral Design, Culinary, Electrical, HVAC, Masonry, Landscape Design

Partnerships

- Multiple communities and industries throughout Minnesota
- Professionals in the Classroom in pilot Wisconsin high schools

Support

- Southern Minnesota Children’s Museum
- South Central College
- Area High School scholarships
- Lending Library

Mobile Classrooms

- Virtual Reality technology
- Advocacy and awareness events
- School districts with inadequate or nonexistent trades classrooms