

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Walker Invests in Granton Area School District for Fab Lab Equipment

Granton – Thanks to Governor Scott Walker’s 2015-17 biennial budget investment in the Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Program, Granton Area School District has the ability to fund new fabrication laboratory facilities, which will bring Wisconsin students into the 21st Century’s global economy. Granton Area School District was awarded \$23,644 to create a Fab Lab.

“Guaranteeing our students have the skills necessary to compete in our rapidly-growing, technology-driven world is critical to our economy,” Governor Walker said. “Fab Labs provide hands-on learning to the next generation of workers to provide our students with the skills they need to obtain good-paying jobs. This ensures everyone who wants a job in Wisconsin can find a job.”

In his 2015-17 biennial budget, Governor Walker implemented the Fab Labs Program, making \$500,000 available to school districts through WEDC. In response to an overwhelming number of applications, WEDC was able to leverage the flexibility of its program funding to move an additional \$101,000 to the initiative, allowing awards for 25 school districts, including Granton Area School District.

WEDC’s Fab Labs Program requires matching funds from each school district and is designed to prepare students for manufacturing jobs in the future. WEDC recently announced the statewide recipients of its Fab Lab funding to support the purchase of Fab Lab equipment for instructional and educational purposes by elementary, middle, junior, or high school students.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have been selected as one of the recipients of the Fab Lab Award. Put the tools in the hands of the students and they will design and build extraordinary things! The Granton Fab Lab will assist students in learning about science, technology, engineering, art, and math through hands on experimentation. GFB will provide opportunities for engagement, mentorship for youth, demonstrations on the process of prototyping and fabrication utilizing innovative technology,” said Principal Opelt

Fab Lab funding gives Wisconsin students hands-on experience, allowing them to put into practice concepts they have learned in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses.

Fab Labs have the potential to benefit individual students, school districts, and Wisconsin’s economy as a whole. For more information, visit www.inwisconsin.com/fablabs.

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About the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing Wisconsin's business climate. WEDC nurtures business growth and job creation by providing resources, technical support and financial assistance to companies, partners and communities in Wisconsin. WEDC has four focus areas: business and industry development, economic and community development, entrepreneurship and innovation and international business development. Together with more than 600 regional and local business development partners, it represents a highly responsive and coordinated network. Visit www.InWisconsin.com or follow WEDC on Twitter [@ InWisconsin](https://twitter.com/InWisconsin) to learn more.