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# PRESS RELEASE

## EAC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS SUPPORTS LOCAL STEM PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

**Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A – 2023** EAC Product Development Solutions, an award-winning PTC Solutions Partner and Global Services Provider, supports local STEM educational programs that are revolutionizing the way kids are learning in Minnesota schools and redefining career exploration.

Lakeville South High School (LSHS) of Independent School District No. 194 offers unique courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, otherwise known as STEM. The Lakeville South STEM Academy has become a beacon of innovation in education, specifically for students in grades 7-12. Continuously crafted from the unique backgrounds and vision of its founders Dan Rawley and Kurt Weber, the program brings engagement in inquiry, logical reasoning, collaboration, and investigation into the classroom.

Initially, the program was created to serve a group of 20 students who had a passion for engineering. Now the overarching goal of LSHS STEM is to prepare students for post-secondary study and the 21st-century workforce. Even on their first day, students are immersed in a holistic approach to learning.

The STEM Academy includes dedicated research classes founded upon engineering processes, integrated contemporary technologies, extensive problem-solving, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and a community-focused Capstone project. Rather than solely teaching standard subjects like science and math, LSHS STEM focuses on problem-solving at its core. The integration of various disciplines including critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration, and communication allows students to see connections between different fields of study. The approach enables them to apply comprehensive skill sets to real-world challenges that ultimately prepare them for tertiary education and future careers.

One of the key principles of Lakeville South's STEM program is teaching the virtue of failure. By creating a safe and supportive environment, students are encouraged to embrace failure early on as a vital step toward learning and success - a lifelong lesson that develops resiliency and confidence in Lakeville South's students.



We don't expect our students to become engineers. Rather, we enable them to explore their potential and overcome the fear of failure, says Kurt Weber, LSHS STEM Teacher and Co-founder. The STEM Academy creates a community of students as self-directed learners, taking charge of their education and growth.

Thanks to the support and donations of the local community, Lakeville South's STEM has achieved widespread success. EAC Product Development Solutions, a leader in modern manufacturing and engineering solution providers, is a large supporter of Lakeville South STEM and has been over the last 7 years. Thane Hathaway, EAC's CEO and Founder, is passionate about STEM and continually dedicates his time to supporting multiple facets of the program.

EAC has taken an active part in Lakeville South's state-qualifying FIRST Tech Challenge in Minnesota (FTC) Robotics Team, participating in student mentorships from engineering professionals, and even supplying hardware and materials like 3D printers and engineering software. EAC's generous contributions intend to remove resource barriers in the classroom and allow STEM students to freely experiment and watch their ideas come to life. Exposure to modern tools used in real industries such as Computer Programming, Biomedical, Engineering, and Industrial Technologies empowers students to explore, experiment, and develop a deep understanding of the principles and challenges inherent in STEM disciplines.

With hands-on experiences and an emphasis on self-discovery, Lakeville South High School's STEM program equips students with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in an increasingly complex world. By fostering resilience, critical thinking, and collaboration, the program prepares students to become the leaders and problem solvers of tomorrow.

As Lakeville South High School continues to pave the way for innovative STEM education, it aims to inspire other educational institutions to adopt a similar approach. Daring students and teachers to think differently, and create meaningful connections between disciplines and proficiencies. Together Lakeville South's STEM Academy and EAC Product Development Solutions are strengthening the pillars of education and opening doors to opportunity for our local students and the future workforce.

To learn more about Lakeville South STEM Academy, visit <https://www.isd194.org/lshs/stem-academy>.

For more information about EAC Product Development Solutions, visit [www.eacpds.com](http://www.eacpds.com).

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