

- ❖ Breaking Traditions is an event held in conjunction with four campuses of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Each year the college campuses host students from area alternative schools for a day. The event is more than a college visit day because students spend the day working side by side college students working on projects. The event gets at-risk students on a college campus and allows them to experience career fields in a hands-on manner. They are also exposed to career areas that they may not have considered.
- ❖ “LifeSkills” has become an annual event held for alternative school students in southwest Minnesota. Knowing that many of these students will not have adequate family support as they transition from high school to life on their own, this day aims to give them information they will need to make the move easier. Speakers provide information on topics like renting an apartment, living on your own, employment, buying and maintaining a car, etc.
- ❖ The Private Industry Council is a sponsor of the annual Southwest Minnesota Career Expo held at SMSU in Marshall and MN West in Worthington. The event aims to educate high school sophomores about high growth and high pay jobs in our region. Area businesses represent their industries by creating hands-on demonstrations for students. Over 1000 students took part in this year’s event.
- ❖ Field trips to area business have become a favorite of students served by the Outreach to Schools grant. Students are allowed an inside look at area manufacturing facilities to experience how products are made and what career opportunities are available in our backyard.
- ❖ Each student enrolled in a work experience component participates in a comprehensive orientation with their worksite mentor. The orientation booklet created by staff covers the rights, responsibilities, and expectations of everyone involved. All necessary information and paperwork is neatly bound together making access to student contact information, safety information or child labor laws easier for supervisors.
- ❖ Youth Council meetings often begin with a presentation to increase members’ understanding of local services for youth.