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PROJECT SUCCESS™
Where students connect to their purpose

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Project Success Provides Support and Connection to Minneapolis Students

Minneapolis, MN — According to the CDC, nearly half of teens reported consistently feeling sad or hopeless last year. Test scores across the state of Minnesota have been dismal, adding to this sense of hopelessness for many students. At Project Success, we have heard this from many of our own students. They struggle to engage in school and feel connected to each other and their goals.

But, even as the CDC warned of a crisis, it also reported that teens who felt connected to others at school felt better about themselves. Project Success (PS) facilitates spaces to do just that – no matter where our programming occurs – space for students to discover, inspire, explore, connect and belong.

Since the beginning of this 2022-23 school year, Project Success has provided hundreds of meaningful experiences and connections for thousands of Minneapolis students and their families through Curriculum, Expeditions, Certificates, and the Arts, including:

- Four 10-week certificate programs for 70 students
- Tours to 12 college, university and tech school campuses for 150 students
- Local outdoor adventures for nearly 400 students
- And thousands of in-class workshops in students' English, English Learner and Special Education Inclusion classrooms in all Minneapolis Public Schools.

Over the course of seven years — beginning in grade 6 and continuing through grade 12 — Project Success engages students in-class through a facilitated curriculum and through local-to-global expeditions, arts programming, and skills-based certificates.

“Our radically inclusive programming reaches all 15,000 Minneapolis public school students every year,” says Laura Garcia, Director of Schools & Curriculum for Project Success, “and 90% of high school students report that Project Success helps them think about their futures, set goals and create a plan for graduation.”

“PS’ professional and energetic staff reach each student in my school. They come into my classroom –and other classes – to facilitate innovative workshops each month. Through PS Theater Experiences, students see themselves – their culture, race and ethnicity, and personal experiences – within the stories, on the stage, and in the classroom,” states Kaytie Kamphoff, special education inclusion teacher at Patrick Henry High School.

So far this school year, more than 2,000 students, families and teachers have experienced theater with Project Success in partnership with more than 50 Twin Cities theaters. Ms. Kamphoff shared that, “Following every PS field trip, we engage in essential conversations about subjects such as identity, community, and overcoming adversity. As a result, my students are more engaged in their learning.”

“We know how difficult the last few years have been on students. We see it every day. But we also see the ways in which our students continue to learn, and grow, and dream,” comments Garcia. “It is truly an honor to be part of this non-profit organization giving students the tools and the space to discover their potential and connect to their purpose. In the face of so many obstacles, Minneapolis students are still finding the drive and the passion to create their own futures. It gives me hope.”

Project Success is a 501(c)3 non-profit. To learn more about Project Success and our programs, visit ProjectSuccess.org.