

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Walker Invests in the School District of Altoona for Fab Lab Equipment**

**Altoona, WI** – Thanks to Governor Scott Walker’s 2015-17 biennial budget investment in the Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Program, the School District of Altoona has the ability to fund new fabrication laboratory facilities, which will bring Wisconsin students into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’s global economy. The Altoona school district was awarded \$25,000 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 Altoona.

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 proud and excited to be the recipient of this Fab Lab Grant! In perfect timing that coincides with our remodeling, this grant enables the district to create a second Technology Education/Fab Lab/ Maker Space to provide our students with opportunities to design, create and see their ideas come to life! This grant will also help us partner with businesses, colleges and universities to provide our students with dual credit classes, internships, work experiences and meaningful job experiences upon graduation!” Dr. Connie Biedron, Superintendent*

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](http://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](http://www.InWisconsin.com) or follow WEDC on Twitter [@ InWisconsin](https://twitter.com/InWisconsin) to learn more.