
MISSION

PROVIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING
AND OPPORTUNITIES TO
SOUTHWEST IOWA'S LIFELONG
LEARNERS.



VISION

BY PROVIDING TRANSFORMATIONAL
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(CTE), WE EMPOWER SOUTHWEST
IOWA'S LIFELONG LEARNERS
THROUGH LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCES THAT CONNECT CTE
STUDENTS TO BUSINESS TRADE
OPPORTUNITIES, THEREBY
BUILDING HOPE FOR
SOCIOECONOMIC CHANGE FOR
EVERYONE INVOLVED THROUGH
TECHNICAL CAREER PATHWAYS.

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SWITCH

SOUTHWEST IOWA TECHNICAL CAREER HUB

HISTORY

The Southwest Iowa Technical Career Hub (SWITCH) is the initial vision of the East Mills Community School District (CSD), which found a repurpose for the elementary school near Hastings, Iowa, that would become temporarily vacant after voters passed a \$22 million bond to establish a K-12 school in Malvern, Iowa. Stakeholders found educational partners to govern and guide the concept of transitioning the Hastings facility into a vocational trade school.

A group of invested citizens, along with the East Mills CSD, the East Mills School Board, Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), iJAG (Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates), and a philanthropic group toured the Hastings campus and agreed that the facility would be able to serve the southwest Iowa region as a vocational or Career and Technical Education (CTE) school. The group began working toward establishing a non-profit organization, hiring a director, and developing the CTE center in Hastings. East Mills CSD currently owns the building and intends to sell or lease the campus to SWITCH once they have vacated it completely, which may occur as early as July 2024 or as late as September 2024.

SCOPE OF WORK

SWITCH's scope of work includes providing classroom space to established educational partners who align with its mission and vision, fostering a collaborative environment to deliver vocational training for Southwest Iowa's lifelong learners.



JACK SAYERS TESTIMONIAL

“Serving as the first student of SWITCH resulted in a transformative experience for my academic and professional life.

Balancing my duties as a page in the Iowa House of Representatives with schoolwork seemed daunting, but the concept of work-based learning allowed me to integrate legislative experiences into my coursework, such as summarizing events like Governor Reynold's State Address for my English class. As a capstone project, I organized a successful bipartisan Southwest Iowa Legislative Dinner, a significant achievement.

Partnering with SWITCH greatly benefited my academic journey, and I recommend it to others.”



COURSES

Educational Partner Course Offering

Started Fall 2024

- *IWCC Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- *Mills County Head Start Preschool

Started November 2024

- *IWCC CDL programming and soon to be a certified Iowa DOT CDL Testing site
- *iJAG Career Success Coach for SWITCH's Region

Starting January 2025

- *Clarkson College certificate programming - TBA

Starting Fall 2025

- *Construction Trades
- *HVAC/Electromechanical Technology (formerly Industrial Technology)
- *Early Childhood Education
- *Green Hills Area Education Agency (GHAEA) Rising Hope Academy

THE FACILITY

The SWITCH Campus has a 72,000-square-foot building and is set on 28+ acres along U.S. Highway 34.

STUDENTS SERVED TO DATE

117 Total Students Served
90% Completers

