



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWITCH Receives \$1 Million Grant from the Lakin Foundation to Support Atrium Renovation and Naming Rights

HASTINGS, IOWA — The Southwest Iowa Technical Career Hub (SWITCH) is proud to announce a transformational \$1 million grant from the Charles E. Lakin Foundation in support of SWITCH's mission to expand vocational training opportunities across the region. This gift will fund the development of a welcoming, state-of-the-art atrium, serving as a cornerstone for SWITCH's long-term sustainability and growth.

In recognition of this generous investment, SWITCH is honored to name the main facility the **Lakin Foundation Training Hub** and its signature gathering space the **Charles E. and Florence M. Lakin Atrium**. These prominent naming designations reflect the Foundation's longstanding commitment to education, rural development, and the Southwest Iowa community.

"This is more than a building enhancement—it's a legacy of opportunity," said Kattie Lewis, Founding Director of SWITCH. "The Lakin Foundation's financial gift and support helps us create an accessible, high-quality training environment where high school students and adult learners can gain the skills they need to thrive in today's workforce, as well as serving as an educational hub for all ages (Pre-K through adult learners)."

"The Lakin Foundation believes that revitalizing Southwest Iowa begins with investing in people. SWITCH is creating a powerful model for workforce development, and we're proud to support a space that will inspire learning, connection, and opportunity for generations to come."

— Steve Wild, President, Charles E. Lakin Foundation

The Charles E. and Florence M. Lakin Atrium will serve as a central gathering space for SWITCH students, educators, industry partners, and community members, while also serving as a welcome center for the area. The renovation is expected to be completed by early fall 2025, with signage and monument displays showcasing the Lakin Foundation Training Hub name prominently along U.S. Highway 34 and throughout the campus.

The Lakin Foundation's investment not only supports SWITCH's facility upgrades but also strengthens its role as a regional hub for career and technical education. This partnership

ensures SWITCH can continue to equip Southwest lowans with practical, in-demand skills in a hands-on environment—close to home.

To learn more about SWITCH and its programs, visit www.switchcareerhub.org.

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