

LaunchNW

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LaunchNW Awards Over \$900,000 to Rural Communities

Spokane, Wash. – Living into its mission of galvanizing entire communities to ensure that every child finds belonging and travels their best journey from birth to career attainment, LaunchNW has awarded \$920,000 in grants to rural communities across Eastern Washington.

“The grants that are awarded vary in amount and purpose,” said Ben Small, Executive Director of LaunchNW. “But ultimately, they support the needs of rural communities in advancing the post high school pursuits of their students.”

These grants focus on building infrastructure and support for rural students to pursue post high school education and their career of choice. Some of the communities receiving grants include:

- **Reardan School District** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Reardan High School.
- **Lind Ritzville Cooperative Schools** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Lind Ritzville High School and Middle School through a production and manufacturing institute.
- **Clarkston School District** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Clarkston High School through Bantam Launch in partnership with WSU GEAR UP and Southeast Washington Economic Development Association.
- **Newport School District** is receiving \$46,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Newport High School through a partnership with Drive509 and the Pend Oreille County PUD. Newport High School will also hold events to support families in completing FAFSA and other scholarship applications.
- **Nine Mile Falls** is receiving \$10,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Nine Mile School District through the Communities in Schools program.

- **Chewelah School District** is receiving \$30,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Chewelah High School through a Mentoring Program in partnership with WSU.
- **Riverside School District** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Riverside High School by investing in a certified Career and Technical Education welding instructor who will work in partnership with Northwest Steel Fab, Inc. and ASC Machine Tools, Inc.
- **Washington State University** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in rural Spokane and Stevens Counties through a mentoring program that models healthcare careers, thus encouraging students to pursue those careers.
- **Dayton School District** is receiving \$50,000 to provide enhanced high school to post high school education transitions in Dayton High School by investing in two Career and Technical Education teachers who will obtain the Vortex Edge Plus training in partnership with the Port of Columbia and Seneca Seed.
- **Northport School District** is receiving \$62,000 to provide a Communities in Schools site coordinator in Northport School District schools.
- **Republic School District** is receiving \$50,000 to provide a Natural Resources Pathway in its agricultural program area.

“We are investing in the economic vitality of these rural communities,” said Ben Small. “We would like to thank all of the communities and organizations who applied.”

LaunchNW is an initiative of Innovia Foundation, a nonprofit invested in rural communities across Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Through LaunchNW, Innovia manifests its commitment to vibrant and sustainable communities where every person thrives. This commitment holds true no matter where you live in Innovia’s service region. Through regional leadership councils, local community leaders inform Innovia of the unique needs of rural towns and counties.

“These grants are an invitation and call to action for our communities,” commented Shelly O’Quinn, CEO of Innovia Foundation. “They encourage everyone to come alongside our young people in charting their post high school pathway.”

About LaunchNW

LaunchNW, an initiative of Innovia Foundation, is a disruption to business as usual. We galvanize entire communities to ensure that every child finds belonging and travels their best journey from birth to career attainment. Grounded in a collective impact framework, we harness cross-sector community partnerships to create wraparound supports and innovative programs for students, alongside our need-based promise scholarship. By supporting our youth, we create a regional future of economic vibrancy and communal belonging. Learn more at launchnw.org.

About Innovia Foundation

As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we partner with people who want to improve their communities and make the world better. We work together to identify and respond to our region's greatest opportunities, help those in need, and leave a lasting impact. Our mission is to ignite generosity that transforms lives and communities. We envision vibrant and sustainable communities where every person has the opportunity to thrive. Each year, Innovia Foundation invests \$10 million into our communities through grants and scholarships. Learn more at innovia.org.

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