



LESOLUTIONS AWARDS SUBMISSION  
JULY 16, 2018 | PROJECT DOSSIER  
MINNETONKA VANTAGE HIGH SCHOOL



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the “Vantage” program, Minnetonka High School students strategically partner with the business community in problem-solving real-world experiences in a professional setting. The educational learning environment offers students to learn and develop skills for high-demand careers engaging, working, and even dressing the way their future employers will expect.

Transforming the high school experience, the courses purposefully take place away from the high school campus (in an office complex), immersing students into the professional ‘way of life’. The expanded course offerings include Healthcare, Sports Science, Business in a Global Economy, Business Analytics, Design, Marketing, and Digital Journalism.

## SCOPE OF WORK & BUDGET

One floor of an existing office building was renovated to make space for the Vantage program. The Vantage program is a part of the Minnetonka Public Schools. The challenge of this project was to create a space that would provide program participants with an environment that would emulate that of a job in the real world.

The project cost was \$374,659. The desire was to give the District a place where their vision could come to life. Parents and teachers alike understand the challenging realities of the marketplace. Our desire was to help them create a space that would help students build competitive transcripts, gain real-world experience, and engage in advanced coursework that will prepare them for an evolving landscape of both college and the marketplace.

## SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Minnetonka Vantage High School is a partnership-based platform. It allows for community leaders and businesses to partner with students giving them hands on, real-world experience even before they graduate from high school. Students are given the chance to learn about their desired industry from professionals who work in that field.

Minnetonka Vantage sought to use this new model of education to give students the ability to become creative

thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers who can collaboratively work with others. Students gain the experience of working on authentic real-world challenges on a daily basis.

## EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The goal of this project was to transform the high school experience by immersing students into the professional ‘way of life’. Business partners in the community partner with the Vantage program to give students the opportunity to gain relevant experience and build their resume even before graduating from high school.

The program is located in an actual office building. That feature along with flexible furniture and break-out spaces allow students to work on projects in a real world setting while also providing them with a environment to meet with business community partners.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This innovatively-designed learning space (conferencing, work, lab, and presentation spaces), provides for a professional workplace environment. Learning pods, small group clustering, and private conferencing spaces bring to life the real-world experience for the students. Flexible furniture and ubiquitous technology enhance the collaborative problem-solving that takes place here. The spaces support the engagement of students, staff, and businesses in this unique approach to learning through case studies, partner-directed projects, and immersion in this profession-based program.

## RESULTS OF PROCESS & PROJECT

In the VANTAGE program students from the Minnetonka High School partner with the professional community in this problem-based professional setting. The professional learning environment requires the students to initiate, work and even dress in a way that their future employers will expect.

Courses are consciously planned off of the main high school campus in an office complex to give students a taste of that environment. The growing course offerings include Healthcare & Sports Science, Business in a Global Economy, Business Analytics, Design & Marketing and Digital Journalism.

Designed as innovative work space the conferencing, work, lab and presentation spaces offer a place for natural work flow. Flexible furniture and technology help to support the collaborative problem-solving. The spaces help to engage students, staff and businesses in this new approach to project-based learning.















SPACE PLANS - MINNETONKA VANTAGE HIGH SCHOOL

