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ECASD Receives Grant, Donation to Fund Fab Lab Projects

*District receives key funding from Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation,
McDonough Manufacturing*

EAU CLAIRE, WI — The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has awarded a Fabrication Laboratories Grant of \$25,000 for the Eau Claire Area School District. McDonough Manufacturing is donating the matching \$25,000 toward the project through the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, which is required by the grant.

The grant will help the district purchase equipment for the development of a fabrication lab at both Memorial and North High Schools. ECASD will use the funds to purchase materials and equipment, including a laser engraver, industrial sewing machine, 3D printers, collaboration workstations and multimedia recording equipment. The district plans to apply for additional grants to supplement and expand the project in the years to come.

“We are grateful for the help we received from McDonough Manufacturing and the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, which supported our application for the grant from WEDC,” said Dr. Mary Ann Hardebeck, Superintendent. “These funds will go a long way toward providing students with the 21st century learning opportunities they need to prepare themselves for a wide range of college and career opportunities. This is an incredible milestone for our fab lab project.”

A fab lab provides a variety of stations for students to explore physical and virtual fabrication and develop valuable skills. The lab is part of ECASD's efforts to provide students with a comprehensive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) experience by the time they graduate.

ECASD must allocate the WEDC funds by December. To learn more about the grant, visit <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/fabrication-laboratories-grant/>.

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