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Digital Literacy Plans released

Two new learning plans are now available to accompany the new Northstar Assessments. *Northstar 6: Microsoft Excel* and *Northstar 7: Social Media* guide learners to online resources that will help them learn and practice the digital literacy skills and standards measured. The Microsoft Excel plan provides a thorough introduction to spreadsheet use, while Social Media focuses on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn and their potential role in a job search, in addition to their recreational uses.

These plans (along with the existing *Microsoft Word plan* and a brief new plan on *Microsoft PowerPoint*) have eliminated the need for (and improved upon) both *Advanced Computer Skills* and *Internet Skills: Who else can you meet online?* Learners will no longer find those plans in their accounts.

Manufacturing Learning Plan ready for piloting

The **Manufacturing Plan** is now live for piloting! The plan covers the past, present, and future of manufacturing careers, including both the scientific and economic aspects, for those FastTRAC students who

might be interested in pursuing one. It draws from a variety of resources, including YouTube videos, career sites, process gifs, etc.

Users can find the plan on Mankato, Southwest ABE, and MNDemo Learner Web sites. If you are interested in adding it to your own region when review and revisions are complete, please contact [Julia Tabbut](#).

Minnesota to participate in California health care literacy project

The Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEA) in Richmond, California, just received a significant federal grant to build health literacy in their community. Included in the project is a comprehensive Learner Web learning plan, in both English and Spanish, that will develop learners' awareness on health literacy issues and prepare them to access and navigate locally available resources.

Minnesota's Learner Web learning plan development team, working as consultants to the Minnesota Literacy Council, will build the plans for LEAP. After they are completed, they will be available to any Learner Web licensed program in Minnesota that wishes to customize the plans for their local learners' use.



Minnesota Learning Plans

Minnesota Learner Web saw its heaviest use in a variety of Career Pathways and transitions programming last year. Goals for these plans include:

- 1) Support learners' participation in education and training programs & enhance persistence and continuity of learning across contexts.
- 2) Put the learner at the center of community collaborations: schools, colleges, employers and social services.
- 3) Strengthen cross-sector, cross-agency, community-wide collaboration through shared information and improved goal identification and management of learning.

Plans with relevant Bridge levels include:

- Medical Office Preparation skills - Bridge
- Integrated Medical Terminology Course – Bridge II
- Learn Soft Skills, Reading at Work, and Math Skills for Work (3 plans) – Bridge II
- Getting Ready for College: The ACCUPLACER test – Bridge II
- Child Development – Bridge I
- Prepare to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) – Bridge I
- Northstar 1-7 and Microsoft PowerPoint (8 plans) – Bridge I/II
- Support Resources – All levels
- Manufacturing
- Building Blocks (bridge level academic prep; in development)

2013-14 Proxy Hours

Learner Web proxy hours totaled 15,043 last year. There was heavy use of the learning plans aligned with Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment, in Duluth, Mankato, Osseo, and St. Paul (1362 hours). Various other learning plans were in wide use in consortia including Southwest ABE, Minneapolis, East Metro, Northwest ABE, and Metro West.

Reminder - Teacher Learning plan is available

There is now a Learner Web learning plan that helps teachers understand the features in the Learner Web software. The plan covers basic information about supporting learners, learner account creation, how to make use of the teacher administrative website, and how to integrate Learner Web into a distance learning program. MDE Adult Basic Education will award five CEU clock hours upon successful completion of the learning plan.

To access the plan, go to mndemo.learnerweb.org. Create an account and sign in. Look for *Being a Learner Web Teacher*. Within thirty days of successfully completing every step of the plan, you will receive your certificate via email.

National Learner Web News

E-Health Portals: The Portland State Learner Web team has been funded by the Community Health Fund to develop a new cluster of Learning Plans that create on-ramps to e-Health portal use. This project addresses an identified need to help patients more fully engage in their health care through meaningful use of their online health portal. In addition, this work will provide valuable information about how individuals best engage with their e-Health portals and the challenges they face.

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Information on using Minnesota Learner Web available [here](#).