

Minnesota Business Venture

2026 Program Recap

PROGRAM IMPACT



344
students



105
schools



196
volunteers



"I was able to learn about business and handling money better. With these opportunities, I feel more confident in my abilities in a professional setting."

- Hill-Murray School Student

PROGRAM RESULTS

- ▶ 100% of students said they developed workforce readiness skills including teamwork, communication, and networking.
- ▶ 93% of students said that as a result of attending MBV, they are more motivated to take steps to achieve success in the future.
- ▶ 94% of students said that as a result of attending MBV, they feel more confident in their interviewing skills.

MBV Speaker Schedule

Session 1: June 21 - 26; Session 2: July 17 - 22

University of St. Thomas

Dare to Dream Day

Dare to Dream

Amee McDonald, Carlson Lab, UofM
Daniela Vasan, Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Northrop

Career Day

Developing Your Brand

Chris Damsgard, Boston Scientific
Judy Park, GE Vernova

Career Skills Breakout Sessions

Wade Anderson, RBC Wealth Management
Waheed Ayinde, US Bancorp
Ezri Farnum, Optum
Courtney Igbo-Ogbonna, Mortenson
Chris Morrison, General Mills
David Presuhn, Boston Scientific
Kannan Seshadri, 3M
Jackie Smith, Allianz

Entrepreneur Day

Starting a Business

Julian Wagner, University of St. Thomas '26
Olivia Keller, University of St. Thomas '26

Business Plan Breakout Sessions

Katie Brokaw Palalay, Ecolab
Preenon Huq, Metro Transit
Neil Manthe, Cetera Advisor Networks
Akshay Vankayala, GE Healthcare
Arian Tomar, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Adam Revoir, Barna, Guzy & Steffen

Financial Freedom Day

Money and Values

Debra Hurston, Association for Black Economic Power

Philanthropy Breakout Sessions

Alyssa Banks, General Mills
Nicola Dixon, Target
Sam Holsen, Xcel Energy
Jazmine Logan, Cargill
Lisa Maloney-Vinz, Ecolab
Jeff Payne, Huntington Bank
Kenna Poppler, Allianz Life
Karin Renier, Piper Sandler
Kristin Rortvedt, MN Twins

Financial Literacy Breakout Sessions

Matt Adey, Morgan Stanley
Chase Brakke, North Star Resource Group
Amanda Charles, Moxie Wealth
Ann Erickson, Froehling Anderson
Mark Hayes, Retired
Josef Hofmeister, Bridgewater Bank
Tina Jones, Blaze Credit Union
Theo Keith, Airbnb
Becky Ortell, Medtronic
Jodi Slais, Wings Financial
Mainhia Yang, ECMC Group

Empowerment Day

Presentation Tips

Eric Forstrom, Wells Fargo

Dreams to Action

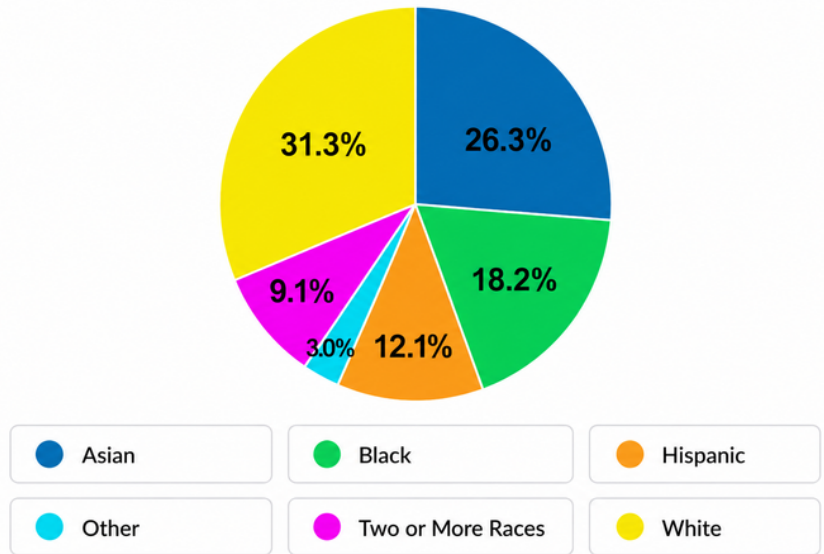
Charlotte Epee, Black Bumble Solutions
Markus Flynn, Black Men Teach

"MBV was an amazing experience that helped me grow both intellectually and as a person. Considering I originally hadn't been interested in business, this camp was able to completely change my mind. I was able to learn many important things both for starting a business and important life and financial skills."

- St. John's Preparatory School Student



2026 MBV Demographics



52%

of MBV students qualify for
free or reduced price lunch at school

Highlights from 2026

- Created and piloted a neurodivergent training for staff on campus.
- Successfully filled the role of Camp Nurse which lightened the staff load significantly.
- Recruited RBLs in recorded time due to the removal of RBL fee.
- New partnership with North Hennepin Community College and TRIO students - this was their first year since COVID that they participated and their first year on the college campus.





"MBV is a great learning experience that teaches you a lot about your future, and how the entrepreneurship process is created. It teaches you many great things like investing, budgeting, and working with others on a project."

- Mahtomedi High School Student

2026 Participating Schools

Academy of Holy Angels, Richfield
Aitkin Secondary School
Anoka High School
Apollo High School, St. Cloud
Arcadia Charter School, Northfield
Benilde-St. Margaret's School, St. Louis Park
Bethlehem Academy, Faribault
Blaine High School
Blake School, Minneapolis
Bloomington Jefferson High School
Bloomington Kennedy High School
Breck School, Golden Valley
Brooklyn Center School District
Brooklyn Center Secondary
Buffalo High School
Burnsville High School
Cathedral High School, St. Cloud
Centennial High School, Circle Pines
Central High School, St. Paul
Century High School, Rochester
Champlin Park High School
Chanhassen High School
Chaska High School
Como Park Senior High School, St. Paul
Concordia Academy, Roseville
Cretin-Derham Hall High School, St. Paul
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Minneapolis
DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis
Duluth East High School
Eagan High School
East Ridge High School, Woodbury
Eastview High School, Apple Valley
Eden Prairie High School
Edina Senior High
Elk River High School
Foley Senior High School
Forest Lake High School

Harding Senior High School, St. Paul
Hiawatha Collegiate High School, Minneapolis
Highland Park Senior High School, St. Paul
Hill-Murray School, Maplewood
Hmong College Prep Academy, St. Paul
Holy Family Catholic High School, Victoria
Hopkins High School, Minnetonka
John Marshall High School, Rochester
Johnson High School, St. Paul
Lakeville North High School
Lincoln International High School, Minneapolis
Lourdes High School, Rochester
Mahtomedi High School
Maple Grove High School
Math and Science Academy, Woodbury
Mayer Lutheran Christian School
Minnetonka High School
Mounds View High School, Arden Hills
North St. Paul High School
Northfield Middle School
Northfield Senior High
Osseo Senior High School
Park Center IB World School, Brooklyn Park
Park Center Senior High School, Brooklyn Park
Prior Lake High School, Savage
Providence Academy, Plymouth
Richfield High School
Robbinsdale Armstrong High School, Plymouth
Robbinsdale Cooper High School, New Hope
Rogers High School
Rosemount High School
Roseville Area High School
St. Paul Music Academy
Sartell-St. Stephen School
Shakopee Senior High School

Simley Senior High School, Inver Grove Heights
South High School, Minneapolis
Southwest High School, Minneapolis
Spring Lake Park High School
St. Anthony High School
St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Stillwater
St. John's Preparatory School, Collegeville
St. Michael-Albertville High School
St. Thomas Academy, St. Paul
STEP Academy Charter School, St. Paul
Stillwater Area High School
Tartan High School, Oakdale
Tech High School, St. Cloud
Totino-Grace High School, Fridley
Two Rivers High School, West St. Paul
Visitation School, Mendota Heights
Washburn High School, Minneapolis
Washington Tech Magnet School, St. Paul
Wayzata High School, Plymouth
White Bear Lake Area High School
Woodbury High School

Out of State:

Academy of Holy Angels, IL
Anderson High School, Austin, TX
Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, MD
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, Takoma Park, MD
Glenbrook North High School, Northbrook, IL
Golda Meir, Milwaukee, WI
Hmong American Peace Academy, Milwaukee, WI
New Richmond Middle School, Milwaukee, WI
Washington Technology Magnet School, WI
Ymnazium Blansko, Czechia

Resident Business Leaders

Zyatah Averiett, Best Buy
Carly Baker, Wells Fargo
Kathy Brubaker, Hubbard Broadcasting Inc.
Sophie Devore, MinnWest Bank
Hannah Ewing, UnitedHealthcare
Chris Gerhardson, Ecolab Inc.
Vardaan Gupta, Best Buy
Tom Horinek, Optum
Jared Little, Wings Credit Union

Kelli Martin, Golden Touch Media Co.
Diane Matson, MinnWest Bank
Tim Mercil, Medtronic
Lizzy Nyoikem, Page Education Foundation
Emily Ollig, Ecolab
Mara Penner, H.B. Fuller
Caleb Potratz, Apex Systems
Thor Reimer, MinnWest Bank
Sydney Rohrer, Deloitte

Heather Rosales, RBC Wealth Management
Cary Rothschild, MinnWest Bank
Laura Straub, Wings Credit Union
Nick Swanson, Northern Communities Credit Union
Veronica Tan, University of Minnesota
Susan Thompson, Optum
Tony Yang, Blaze Credit Union
Anna Zhang, Sun Country Airlines
Keisha Zerwas, Medtronic

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