CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA
After dozens of community visits across the state of North Dakota, student engagement, succession planning and preparing leaders for the future became clear improvement opportunities for communities large and small. NDSU Extension Service and the Department of Public Instruction developed the curriculum needed to support some of these opportunities. The question remains how do we utilize this new program to impact schools, communities and the state of North Dakota.

BUILDING TOMORROW’S LEADERS JOINS MAIN STREET INITIATIVE
As part of the final module in the Building Tomorrow’s Leaders Program (Project Management), students will design and implement a project idea to assist their school and/or community in one of the three Main Street Pillar areas: 21st Century Workforce, Healthy Vibrant Communities or Smart, Efficient Infrastructure. These programs will be highlighted on the Governor’s Main Street website and can be used by communities to apply for the Main Street Awards presented at the League of Cities Conference in September of 2018.
MAIN STREET PILLAR DESCRIPTIONS AND EXAMPLES:

21st Century Workforce: ND economy is changing, and, now more than ever, a skilled workforce is vital to the success of any company – big or small. In industries like energy, agriculture, healthcare, unmanned aerial systems and more, we are seeing the emergence of unique solutions built on innovative ideas.

Examples of Project Ideas: Utilizing student’s knowledge from BTL program and traditional school programs run a local community business open a few nights a week; creation of a collaborative career education fair for students to learn about future possibilities; assist local businesses with social media and networking sites.

Healthy, Vibrant Communities: North Dakota needs to create 21st century cities with vibrant cores that will help to attract and retain talent. These unique places and spaces become the differentiator that helps lead to healthy fiscal – and physical – communities.

Examples of Project Ideas: High School class project to showcase the community Main Street and its history; Creation of a unique community event; Develop a community garden.

Smart, Efficient Infrastructure: Building smart, efficient infrastructure starts by examining the full costs, return on investment and sustainability of our growth patterns. Creating mixed-use city centers and neighborhoods maximizes existing infrastructure, a clear economic benefit for taxpayers.

Examples of Project Ideas: Help to create local pop-up demonstrations for a city center, bike paths or patio dining utilizing temporary fixtures such as bike racks, hay bales, flower pots and more; Utilization of an empty lot or town space for community event, park and/or gathering space.