

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2021



MINNESOTA STATE
Transportation Center of Excellence

The background of the slide is a dark blue-tinted photograph of a person wearing a hard hat and a safety vest, working on a vehicle. The person is wearing a hard hat with a logo that says "STILLWATER MTS". The vest has "BLU-BARD" written on it. The person is holding a tool and working on a part of the vehicle. The image is split diagonally, with the top half being dark blue and the bottom half being white.

MISSION

The Minnesota State Transportation Center of Excellence **drives workforce innovation** through **education and industry** collaboration – and provides thought leadership on **workforce development** in the transportation industry.

VISION

Engaging **Industry**.
Enhancing **Education**.
Inspiring **Students**.

Engaging Industry

Industry Engagement Survey

This year we sent out our 2nd annual industry engagement survey to gauge industry partnerships with schools, discover challenges, and find ways to help industry.

Executive Board Meetings

Our Executive Board is made up of 24 individuals from leaders in industry, education, workforce organizations, teacher associations, and statewide employer associations. We meet three times a year, twice online and once in person.

Toro Engine Donations

Since the beginning of our partnership with Toro in 2017, we have helped distribute over 500 small gas engines to over 50 different schools across the state of Minnesota. [↗](#)

Demand Analysis

Our Demand Analysis has been developed to identify critical workforce trends and opportunities in Transportation. The analysis has data on current and future employment, forecasted sector growth, the impact of COVID-19, top requested skills, and more. In 2021 it was downloaded 141 times. [↗](#)



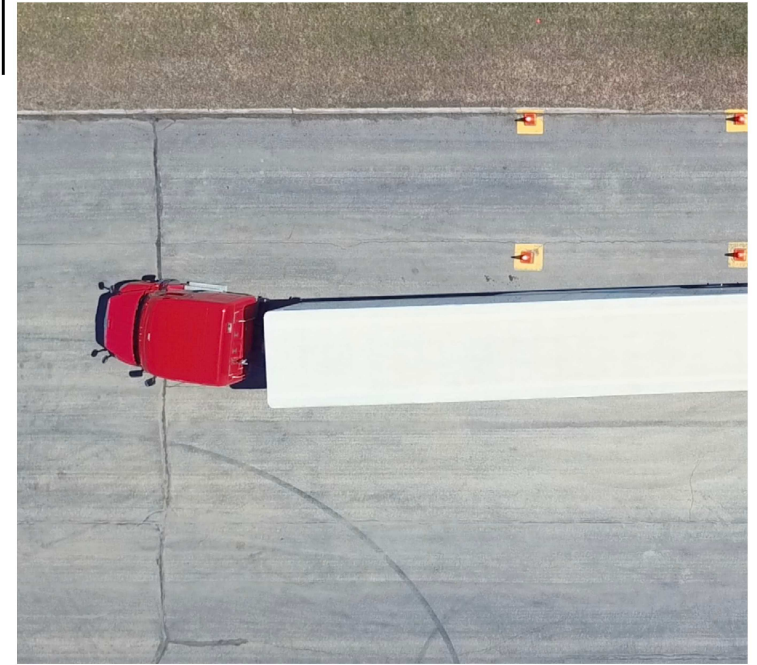
Enhancing Education

Commercial Driver Academy

This is a collaborative effort between the TCOE and three Twin Cities Metro Area schools (Anoka Ramsey Community College, St. Paul College, and Dakota County Technical College) to provide Commercial Driver License (CDL) training through each college with a concentration on providing training for underrepresented and underserved people; this project utilizes funding from MJSP (Minnesota Job Skills Partnership) and a Multi-Campus Collaborative grant from the Minnesota State System Office to significantly enhance current CDL training at Dakota County, and provide CDL training as new offerings at the Anoka and St. Paul campuses. [↗](#)

ISA-TOPE NSF Grant

In April we were awarded a \$466,000 grant that provides funding for Innovative Semi-Autonomous Trucks and Off-highway Powered Equipment (ISA-TOPE) to be available to and utilized by state colleges and high schools allowing hands-on, real-world autonomous technologies to enhance student education, professional development, and outreach, especially related to diesel technician, professional truck driver, and heavy equipment operator programs across the state. [↗](#)





Service Learning Mini-Grants

Along with the National Center for Autonomous Technologies, we have developed mini-grants to provide supplemental funding for post-secondary instructors to start or enhance a service learning project.

New teacher mentoring

In conjunction with the MTTIA conference, we hosted a morning workshop for new teachers to share resources and best practices. In addition, this event allowed attendees to make connections with experienced mentors from both education and industry



Train-The-Trainer Workshops

This year's Train-The-Trainer workshop was held at M-State in Detroit Lakes, MN and featured welding, small gas engines, and drone technology and had 22 educators attend.

Workforce Development Scholarships

Since we began working on these scholarships along with AgCentric we have seen an increased number of scholarships awarded to transportation students this year (worth over \$400,000) and we continue to build new relationships with college partners across the state.



Sector meetings

A total of 28 sector meetings were held for Automotive, Aviation, Collision Repair, Diesel, Marine and Powersports, Truck Driving, and Deans.

Inspiring Students

Outreach Overall

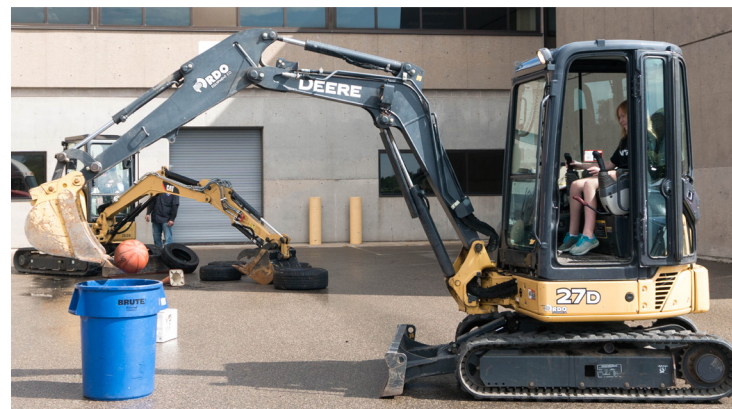
We are thrilled to be back doing in person events and making connections with students and influencers! This year we reached over 11,500 students through career fairs, career exploration trailer events, and classroom presentations in 25 different cities and in 16 out of the 26 Perkins consortia.

Classroom Presentations

Both in-person and virtually, in every region of the state, dozens of classroom presentations were given throughout Minnesota. Debunking myths and promoting pathways, our appearances in rural and metro schools routinely showcased college instructors and industry partnerships.

Nitro-X

Due to campus restrictions from COVID-19 we were only able to run 3 camps this year. Although a small number, we ran a brand new camp this year in Albert Lea that also built a permanent RC car track on their campus and we also launched a new one day camp format where students, along with their families, can experience a race day and other typical Nitro-X activities in Rosemount. [🔗](#)



More Highlights

TCOE Awards

We hosted our 2nd annual Awards program at the MTTIA conference this past August and were able to honor and recognize 6 outstanding individuals and 1 outstanding company for their contributions to education. [🔗](#)

COE Communications and Outreach Group

The Center of Excellence Communications and Outreach group continues to meet once a month. This collaboration has led to many joint efforts across the state of Minnesota. [🔗](#)

Meeting the President

President Biden traveled to Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota to give his remarks on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Chris had the honor to speak with him and also had the opportunity to talk to the Secretary of the US Department of Education, Miguel Cardona. [🔗](#)

Sector Posters

As a way to help serve the many programs across the state, a poster template has been made of each sector for colleges and high schools to use to promote their programs. [🔗](#)



S T A T S



72

programs



25

colleges



33

campuses



1.7K

video views on YouTube



29K

pageviews on minntran.org



1.8K

social media followers



\$400K

in Workforce Development
Scholarships awarded to
transportation students



11.5K

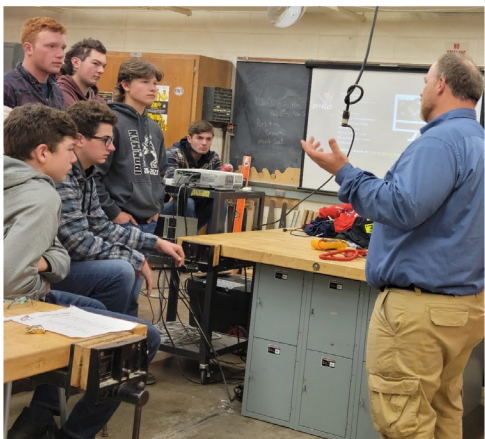
students reached through
career fairs, trailer events, and
classroom presentations



\$1.2M

in grants awarded to
transportation programs

S N A P S H O T S





MINNESOTA STATE

Transportation Center of Excellence

Minnesota State hosts eight Centers of Excellence - each serving a major industry that faces serious workforce challenges. The centers collaborate with industry and educators to attract and prepare students for success in high-demand careers.

Strategically located throughout the state, the Minnesota State Centers of Excellence drive workforce innovation through education and industry collaboration - and provide thought leadership on workforce development in their respective industries.

OUR TEAM



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