

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2022



MINNESOTA STATE
Transportation Center of Excellence

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

CDL Academy

Starting as a single cohort at Dakota County Technical College offering Class A CDL training to approx. 50 students a year, the Academy has grown to two cohorts training approx. 100 students a year. As soon as a qualified instructor can be hired, there are existing plans and resources to start a cohort at St. Paul College offering Class B CDL training to approx. 50 students a year. Utilizing the collaborative model of the CDL academy, and realizing the need for more uniform training opportunities across the state, there are detailed plans developing that would create a statewide consortium of CDL schools, enhancing current offerings, and developing new locations for CDL training across the state. [↗](#)

Increasing CDL Training Capacity Through Collaboration

This year we've worked with the Teamsters and many statewide associations including Aggregate and Ready-Mix - Minnesota, Minnesota Charter Bus Operator's Association, Minnesota Public Transit Association, and Minnesota Chamber of Commerce to explore solutions to the CDL driver shortage.

Supply and Demand Analysis

This report has been developed to identify critical workforce trends and opportunities in Minnesota's transportation industry. The report addresses current and future employment, wages, workforce demographics, forecasted sector growth, supply, gap analysis, high-need/high-demand programs, and more. In 2022 it was downloaded 278 times. [↗](#)

Enhancing Education

Train-The-Trainer Workshop

Our Center once again partnered with the Northern Agricultural Center of Excellence to offer a Train-The-Trainer workshop for high school educators over the summer. This effort resulted in long-lasting relationships with high school educators which enabled our Center to facilitate several events such as small engine donations and college visits.

ISA-TOPE NSF Grant

It's been a busy year for the ISA-TOPE grant! We have finally received our semi-autonomous semi-tractor and track loader with a box blade attachment, hosted professional development workshops, participated in student career exploration events like the Experience STEAM event at the Mall of America, attended the NSF PI conference, and assisted M-State and Riverland in obtaining their own NSF grants. [↗](#)

Service Learning Mini-Grant

The National Center for Autonomous Technologies generously provided a grant that helped Riverland Community College's automotive program start a service-learning project. This grant provided students the ability to provide free car repairs to local community members who wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford them while perfecting their skills! [↗](#)





CDL Statewide Consortium

20 Minnesota State colleges are working together to form the Statewide CDL Customized Training Consortium. This collaboration will be the largest of its kind and will serve large industry and government partners needing CDL training.

NSF Grants Awarded to Riverland and M-State

Mentoring and engagement of these 2 grant proposals led to new curriculum, enhanced employer partnerships, and new opportunities within their community.



Influencer's Day

In conjunction with the MTTIA conference we invited recruiters, advisors, administrators, co-op/industry council staff, and instructors to spend the day with us to better understand how to advocate for careers in the trades, experience hands-on trades activities, and to hear from young professionals about how they made the decision to attend college and why they picked the college they did. [🔗](#)

TCOE Awards

For the third straight year, we helped recognize several outstanding transportation educators and supporters through the TCOE Awards program. This program continues to be a great way to showcase and connect with some of Minnesota's finest transportation stakeholders. [🔗](#)



Inspiring Students

Outreach Overall

Our outreach activities picked back up to a pre-pandemic pace this year. These activities ranged from regional career fairs, high school visits, community events, college program showcase days and presentations which several college and industry partners joined us at. This year we reached over 29,108 students and influencers.

Nitro-X

We had six camps run this summer with full enrollments. Our camps continue to work on identifying ways to increase sustainability and efficiency and the TCOE continues to explore new ways to support camps in brand awareness and promotions, while supporting autonomy within camps as they utilize and cultivate new resources specific to their locations.

High School Banners

We created large and visually appealing banners that showcase where students can go to college for transportation programs and sent them to high schools with transportation programs. We currently have banners in 70 high schools across Minnesota and still have more to ship out.





70

programs



23

colleges



33

campuses



1.6K

video views on YouTube



25K

pageviews on minntran.org



2K

social media followers



\$480K

in Workforce Development
Scholarships awarded to
transportation students



21.9K

students reached through ca-
reer fairs, outreach events, and
classroom presentations



\$2.7M

in grants awarded to
transportation programs

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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.

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