

# ***ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS***

2023



**MINNESOTA STATE**  
Transportation Center of Excellence

The background image shows a technician in a blue shirt working on a vehicle. Overlaid on the image are several text elements: 'MISSION' in large white letters, '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.' in white text, and 'VISION' in large white letters. There are also various green and white text overlays like 'EXPLORE', 'AVIATION', 'MARINE & P', 'VERSPO', 'TRI', and 'AN.ORG'.

# 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**.





## EV 101 Presentation for Instructors and Students

Lew developed a presentation that goes over the fundamentals and safety precautions of electric vehicles. This was presented at the MTEEA conference in October and has since been presented to automotive students at Osseo High School. More presentations for 2024 are being scheduled and a new presentation on Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) is also being developed.

## Two new CDL Holders on our Team

We are fortunate to have an exceptional CDL instructor as part of our team! This year, Carl was able to train Chris and Lew so they could get their CDL. As a result, we now have two additional CDL holders on our staff who can drive our ISA-TOPE truck and our Career Exploration Trailer.



## REALISTIC Survey

For several years, the TCOE has conducted Teacher and Industry surveys to allow instructors and industry to assess the various transportation programs. This year, an updated set of surveys, called the REALISTIC survey, has been introduced. These surveys will maintain the information gathered from previous surveys in order to give us long-term analysis of changes to that data but are being enhanced with additional questions designed to give the participants a more detailed voice in how the TCOE can actively assist in helping these programs and provide the needed resources to best help the transportation programs across the state to better strive for excellence.

## Outreach Overall

In 2023, we reached nearly 22,000 students and influencers through participation in 41 different career fairs, community events, presentations, summer camps, and conferences.



## Nitro-X

This year we had three of our Nitro-X camps take place in St. Cloud, Anoka, and White Bear Lake and we are currently in the initial phase of developing an improved camp model for the summer of 2025.

## New Wrap for our Career Exploration Trailer

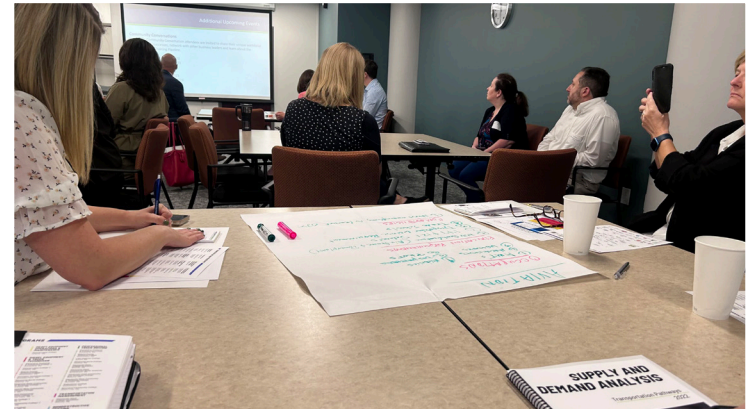
After five years with our original wrap on the Career Exploration Trailer it was time for a refresh! Our new wrap is bold and catches the eyes of everyone we drive by.

## TCOE Awards

In 2023, we celebrated the fourth year of the TCOE Awards, and with each passing year, the event continues to grow and improve! Our annual presentation takes place during the MTTIA conference, and this year, we were honored to present six awards to exceptional educators and supporters from the state.

## Dual PIPELINE Grant Planning Session

TCOE personnel, community members, and industry representatives collaborated with the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to provide subject matter expertise and guidance on the expanded Dual Pipeline grant, which now includes transportation careers. This new grant opportunity will help reimburse industry for educational expenses for students to learn new skills and/or upskill from an existing position in a company to one with better pay and of high need within the company.







## Toro Engine Donations

Over the last seven years, we've been distributing Toro's retired test engines to schools in Minnesota to incorporate into their CTE classes. This year, we successfully delivered 129 engines to nine different schools, bringing the total distribution throughout our partnership to nearly 800 engines.

## ISA-TOPE Impact

ISA-TOPE had a fantastic year! Conversations stemming from the AED Conference in January have underscored the importance of integrating autonomous vehicle standards and task lists into the upcoming accreditation standards that are set to release in 2024.

The equipment was featured at various events including career fairs, an international conference, and multiple trainings. The skid steer was used during the Empow(HER) Girls in the Trades summer camp at Minnesota North and the truck was used for a local group of Scouts to earn their transportation badge!

The curriculum developed for the grant is actively being shared through ATE Connects and locally by the TCOE which will include a D2L site in the coming year.

## ISA-TOPE E2 Grant Submission

This fall we focused our efforts on preparing, reviewing, revising, and ultimately submitting a second NSF grant to expand the existing ISA-TOPE grant. We are hoping for positive news in 2024!



## Masking Tape Donation from CREF and 3M

The Collision Repair Education Foundation and 3M donated 5 pallets of masking tape to secondary and post-secondary Collision Repair programs in Minnesota. We have been helping distribute the tape to programs across the state and with the help of ASE we have donated some to North Dakota high schools as well.



## MTTIA Conference

The Midwest Teachers of Transportation and Industrial Areas remains a valued organization that we partner with each year. Our conference planning efforts have focused on broadening the vendor and exhibitor show, enhancing sponsorship opportunities, and working on a modified conference format for 2024. We continue to serve on various committees and have three staff members on the board of directors. We are grateful to work alongside this wonderful organization!



## ITEEA conference

We attended and had a booth at the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Conference in Minneapolis this year! The conference drew a diverse audience including attendees from China and Croatia. Displaying the ISA-TOPE skid steer in our booth sparked numerous conversations with engineering students and instructors, highlighting the demand for engineers in the transportation industry. Many expressed that they had not previously considered the transportation field as a career option for graduates.







71

programs



23

colleges



29

campuses



1.7K

video views on YouTube



24.3K

pageviews on minntran.org



33K

reached on social media



\$439K

in Workforce Development  
Scholarships awarded to  
transportation students



22K

students and influencers  
reached through outreach  
events and conferences



\$1.2M

in grants awarded to  
transportation programs

S  
T  
A  
T  
S



# SNAPSHOTS







# S N A P S H O T S

ENGAGING INDUSTRY. ENHANCING EDUCATION. INSPIRING STUDENTS.



## 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



**Chris Hadfield**  
Executive Director  
chris.hadfield@dctc.edu



**Carl Borleis**  
Director of Program Excellence  
carl.borleis@dctc.edu



**Llewellyn Olivier**  
Director of Outreach  
llewellyn.olivier@dctc.edu



**Cassidy Jelen**  
Project Coordinator  
cassidy.jelen@dctc.edu



**Michaela Holman-Schmidt**  
Administrative Assistant  
michaela.holman-schmidt@dctc.edu