

'24

# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS



**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**.



## Interim Executive Director Named

This year we bid a bittersweet farewell to our Executive Director, Chris Hadfield, who has been instrumental in advancing our Center over the past decade. We were pleased to welcome Carl Borleis as Interim Executive Director. Previously serving as Director of Program Excellence, Carl brings extensive experience in both industry and education and has led us exceptionally well during this transition

## Minnesota Works! Exploring Tech and the Trades

The Centers of Excellence hosted four Minnesota Works events this year, designed to showcase high-skill, high-paying careers critical to Minnesota's economic future. The events provided hands-on exploration in seven key career sectors—Agriculture, Energy, Engineering, Healthcare, IT, Manufacturing, and Transportation—along with opportunities to tour campuses, labs, and classrooms. We kicked off with a pilot event in February at Dakota County Technical College, followed by successful fall events at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Riverland Community College, and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.



## ADAS101 Presentation Developed & Launched

This year, we launched an ADAS workshop covering system types, calibration procedures, and key perception devices. Participants received digital resources and gained hands-on experience performing camera and radar calibrations on our Toyota Rav4 using OEM tools.



## Named Outstanding Partner of Goodwill-Easter Seals

In December, the TCOE was honored as an Outstanding Partner by Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota Career Training & Education Program. Our ongoing partnership has included various initiatives, most recently delivering EV101 presentations to their auto students.



## ASE Social Networking Event

We were thrilled to showcase our Nitro-X Summer Camps at the ASE Instructor Training Conference in Minneapolis this past July. We created our first indoor RC track, a practice track, and painted/designed 46 RC cars for sponsors. We're grateful for the tremendous team effort that made this event a success, allowing hundreds of instructors to experience Nitro-X and learn how they can bring it to their own communities.

## Nitro-X Sampler

In July, we hosted our first Nitro-X Sampler event at the 3M Skills Development Center. This one-day event featured activities like driving RC cars through a skills course, learning about vehicle suspension and steering, and going on a virtual field trip. Campers also enjoyed a live RC car body painting demo, had the chance to customize their own RC car bodies, and finished the day with an RC car race! After the Sampler, 82% of the campers reported they were more interested in transportation careers. A big thank you to all the ASE Field Managers who spent the day mentoring our campers!

## EV & ADAS Recommended Tools List

Our team has compiled a comprehensive list of recommended tools and safety equipment for Electric Vehicles and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, complete with item details, price ranges, and direct links to the products. You can find this resource on our Educator Resources page under the Automotive section, marked with a star.







## New Additions to the Trailer

**Ziegler Engine:** Thanks to the incredible generosity of Ziegler Companies, our trailer now features a CAT C4.4 T engine! We extend a special thank-you to the Dakota County Technical College Heavy Equipment Program for building the mobile run stand.

**Fluid ID Station:** Students can now explore the various types of fluids found in a vehicle, enhancing their understanding of automotive systems and maintenance.

**Cutaway Turbo Engine:** This new feature offers a unique look inside a turbo engine, allowing students to see and learn how these high-performance systems operate.



## New Teacher Mentoring

This year, we achieved record attendance at our New Teacher Mentoring session at the MTTIA Conference, with 12 participants. While the number may seem small, the focused nature of this workshop allows for valuable one-on-one support, making it an impactful experience for new transportation educators.



## Over 125 Banners in Shops

For the past two years, we have distributed 4'x8' banners to high schools across Minnesota to promote transportation programs offered by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Each banner features a QR code that links directly to our website, providing students with easy access to more information. We are thrilled to share that over 125 banners are now proudly displayed in high school shops and classrooms statewide, helping to connect students with opportunities in transportation education.

## ATE Principal Investigators' Conference

In 2024, Carl attended the ATE Principal Investigators' Conference in Washington, D.C.! This prestigious event brings together over 850 NSF ATE grantees and their project partners to address critical issues in advanced technological education. Carl had the opportunity to present on Consulab's L4 tabletop trainer as part of the Convergence Lab hosted by the National Center for Autonomous Technologies. His presentation was one of several highlighting innovative autonomous technologies across land, sea, and air.



## Advisory Committee Attendance

Throughout the year, we actively participate in college and high school advisory committee meetings across Minnesota. This allows us to provide thought leadership and bring attention to statewide issues, initiatives, and trends in transportation education. By sharing best practices and resources, we help empower schools to implement strategies for program excellence.



  
**70**  
PROGRAMS

  
**23**  
COLLEGES

  
**29**  
CAMPUSES





**24K**

pageviews on minntran.org



**2K**

video views on YouTube



**85K**

reached on social media



**54**

career fairs, conferences,  
and outreach events attended



**35K**

students and  
influencers reached



**25**

EV101 and ADAS101  
presentations given



**40**

Toro engines  
donated to high schools



**169**

Supply and Demand  
Analysis downloads



**\$573K**

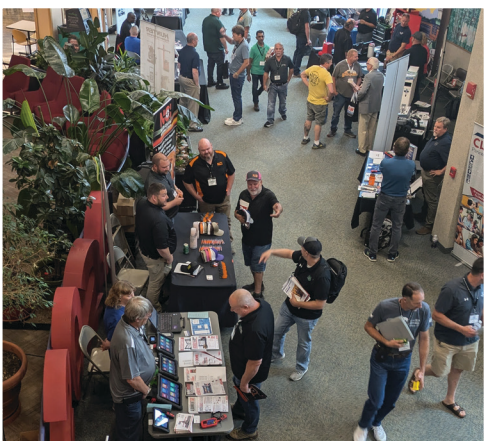
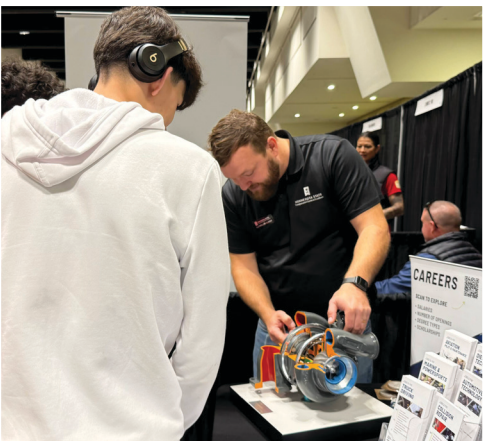
in Workforce Development  
Scholarships awarded to  
transportation students

S  
T  
A  
T  
S

ENGAGING INDUSTRY. ENHANCING EDUCATION. INSPIRING STUDENTS.



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



**Carl Borleis**  
Interim Executive Director  
carl.borleis@dctc.edu



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



**Cassidy Yates**  
Operations Manager  
cassidy.yates@dctc.edu



**Dede Quevi**  
Administrative Assistant  
dedepheretha.quevi-attakpla@dctc.edu