

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY



PAVING THE ROAD
TO SUCCESS



Stride
Career Prep



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PROMISING CAREER PATH

- Family-supporting wages
- Top-tier benefits
- No college debt
- Skilled jobs that can't be outsourced

Demand for skilled equipment operators is high. From clean energy to roads and bridges, our communities depend on these vital jobs.

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PATHWAY AT A GLANCE

- Flexible online class schedules — students can stay enrolled in their local school districts
- Hands-on training events with industry partners
- Potential for high school, college and apprenticeship credit
- Free to high school students — with no budgetary impact on schools when students pass the course

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A BRIEF HISTORY

- Program launched in 2020
- Students have enrolled from more than 150 schools
- Launched in-person program at Wright Tech in fall 2023
- SPPS sandbox fall/spring 2025/26
- Pathway program has 333 enrollments in spring 2025



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COURSES OFFERED

- Construction Exploration
- Basic Grade & Construction Math
- Equipment Fundamentals
- Basic Equipment Maintenance

Each class is 1 semester and includes hands-on opportunities for students.



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HOW CLASSES WORK

- Curriculum developed with Local 49 to prepare students for all aspects of life and work in the industry
- Students typically remain enrolled in local school district
- Coursework delivered through MNVA learning platform or in person at Wright Tech
- Live teaching sessions recorded for student access at any time



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HANDS-ON EVENTS

- Are hosted by industry partners, such as Ames Construction, Ziegler Cat, Central Lakes College and the Local 49 Training Center
- Include seat time on equipment
- Expose students to a variety of career options in the industry

Industry partners are indispensable, offering in-kind support from staff time to equipment use to publicity.



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3-IN-1 OPPORTUNITY

- High school elective credit
- Articulated college credit for 3 of the courses
- Credit hours toward the Local 49 registered apprenticeship program



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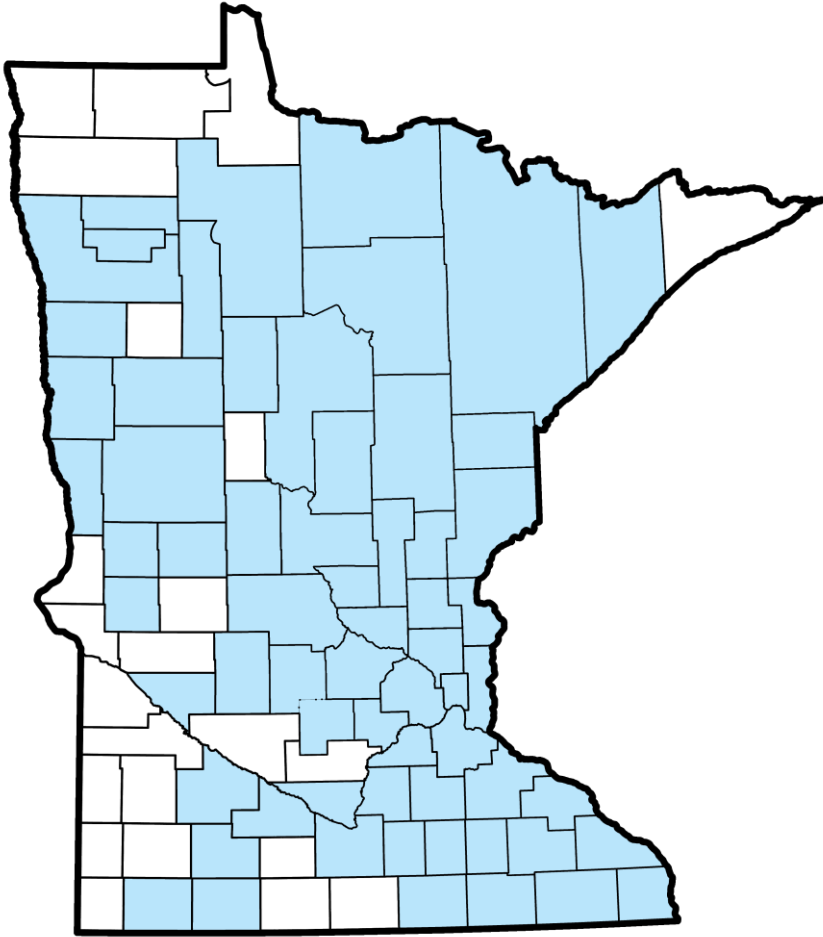


CAREER NAVIGATORS

- Work with Pathway students and assist with job placement
- Recruit apprentices
- Offer guidance and encouragement throughout apprenticeship
- Help ensure high-quality experience for apprentices and employers

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**STUDENTS ENROLL
FROM ACROSS
MINNESOTA**

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“The Pathway program is spot on getting you ready for the real world.”

**-Marley Sherbon, Caledonia
Pathway graduate and Local 49 apprentice**

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“No question, the hands-on events we do for the Operating Engineers Pathway are the best bang for our effort to recruit young operators.”

**-Megan Holland
Regional EEO Officer for Ames Construction**

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IMPACT ON SCHOOLS

- Thanks to the Legislature, there has been no budgetary impact on local school districts, provided students pass the course
- Upon a student's successful completion of a course, the district is fully reimbursed for the cost
- This lets districts focus on the best interest of students without worrying about the bottom line



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PATHWAY SUCCESS MEANS MORE INVESTMENT NEEDED

- Program has outperformed expectations
- Popularity has exhausted initial state investment
- House File 1003 and Senate File 1543 provide \$500,000 this biennium to ensure schools won't miss out on funding when they support student participation in the Pathway



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LEARN MORE

- Pathway program: local49.org/pathway
- STRIDE Career Prep at Minnesota Virtual Academy: mnva.k12.com/stride-career-prep
- Local 49 Training Center: local49training.org

Thanks for supporting the future
of our students!

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