

# DESTINATIONS CAREER ACADEMY

POWERED BY K12



**MNVA**

Minnesota  
Virtual Academy

HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Readiness Pathway at Minnesota Virtual Academy

A collaborative program between the Destinations Career Academy at Minnesota Virtual Academy (MNVA) and International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 prepares high school students for entering the International Union of Operating Engineers Registered Apprenticeship Program.

Students enroll full or part-time through the DCA program at MNVA to access courses as part of their traditional school day. This pathway is available to any student enrolled in a Minnesota school district.

The program includes four semester courses that give an overview of the skills needed to successfully navigate the requirements of the apprenticeship program. The courses offered count as elective courses on a student's high school transcript, articulated college credits with North Hennepin Community College and credit hours towards the Registered Apprenticeship Program with Local 49 once they are signed on with a Signatory Contractor.

Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Readiness Pathway Course Sequence

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

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“The courses were a great opportunity for me to learn if I would be interested in a career in the construction field. I would definitely recommend these courses for other high school kids considering working in the construction industry.”

Cole Snidarich, student

## Program Strengths

- Unique and innovative school-industry partnership providing a strong exploratory experience for high school students leading into an obtainable career pathway in the commercial construction industry
- Pathway is open to any student enrolled in a Minnesota Public School district
- Students can participate as either a full or part-time student enrolled at MNVA
- Curriculum is online and can be easily accessed from any location
- 3 for 1 credit opportunity – high school elective credit, articulated college credits and credit hours towards related training in IUOE apprenticeship
- Options for visiting the Local 49 Training Center located in Hinkley, Mn and participation in additional hands on training experiences
- Access to career counseling and guidance into the Operating Engineer field for apprenticeships
- 15% of current student enrollment are female students – female goal on most publicly funded projects is 20%
- Pathway is scalable to replicate for other trades and industries
- Strong alignment to both Worlds Best Workforce goals and High Quality CTE programs for high school students
- Providing clear information and intentional accessibility to opportunities in Registered Apprenticeship with the intent of increasing diverse populations often underrepresented in the field of Heavy Equipment Operations.



## Program Challenges

- Interest for the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship Readiness Pathway is high across the state while financial disadvantage on school districts due to lost state revenue prevents student enrollment.
- Best interest of students can be overlooked based on the per pupil funding model as it presents a challenge for districts financially due to lost revenue related to shared time student enrollment.

## Enrollment Highlights Kick Off Year

1<sup>st</sup> Semester – 52 Students

2<sup>nd</sup> Semester – 112 Students

## Helpful Links

Program Overview Video:  
<https://youtu.be/j97lvCbjzc>

Local 49:  
[Local 49](#)

MNVA:  
[Destinations Career Academy at Minnesota Virtual Academy \(MNVA\)](#)

WDIO Coverage:  
<https://www.wdio.com/duluth-minnesota-news/heavy-equipment-industry-local-49-mn-virtual-academy-/5862117/?cat=12055>