

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY



PAVING THE ROAD
TO SUCCESS



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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 state depends 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 public 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
- Legislature approved \$100,000 funding in 2021
- More than 100 schools are involved
- Pathway program has 171 enrollments in spring 2023



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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
- Live teaching sessions recorded for student access at any time



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HANDS-ON EVENTS

- Are hosted by industry partners, such as Ziegler Cat, Ames Construction 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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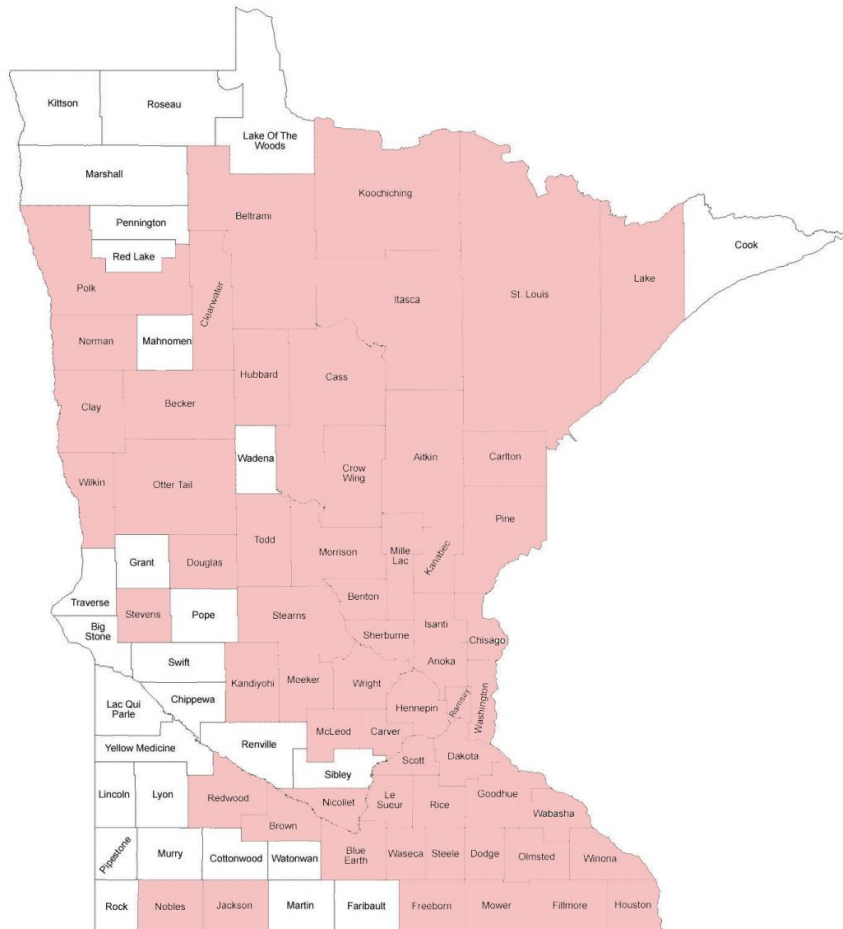
3-IN-1 OPPORTUNITY

- 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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**STUDENTS ENROLL
FROM ACROSS
MINNESOTA**

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EQUITY & OUTREACH

- Statewide promotion of program, including repeated appearances in the news media
- 19 female students enrolled in 2022-23
- 7 self-identified BIPOC students enrolled in 2022-23



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SENIOR SUCCESS

- 56 seniors in the program graduated in 2022
- 23 of those had completed all four Pathway courses
- 22 indicated on a survey that they want to work in the field
- More than 10% of seniors in the Pathway last year entered Local 49's apprenticeship program, and others entered post-secondary programs related to heavy equipment

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

-Marley Sherbon, Caledonia, Pathway graduate and apprentice with Mortenson Construction

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“The people do a great job of teaching you everything you need to know in the field trips. They really provide the knowledge you need to get into this trade.”

**-Ryland Schmakel, Spring Valley,
11th-grade Pathway student**

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“We need the next generation to have exposure to these amazing career opportunities, and Ames is happy to open our doors and show them what this industry has to offer.”

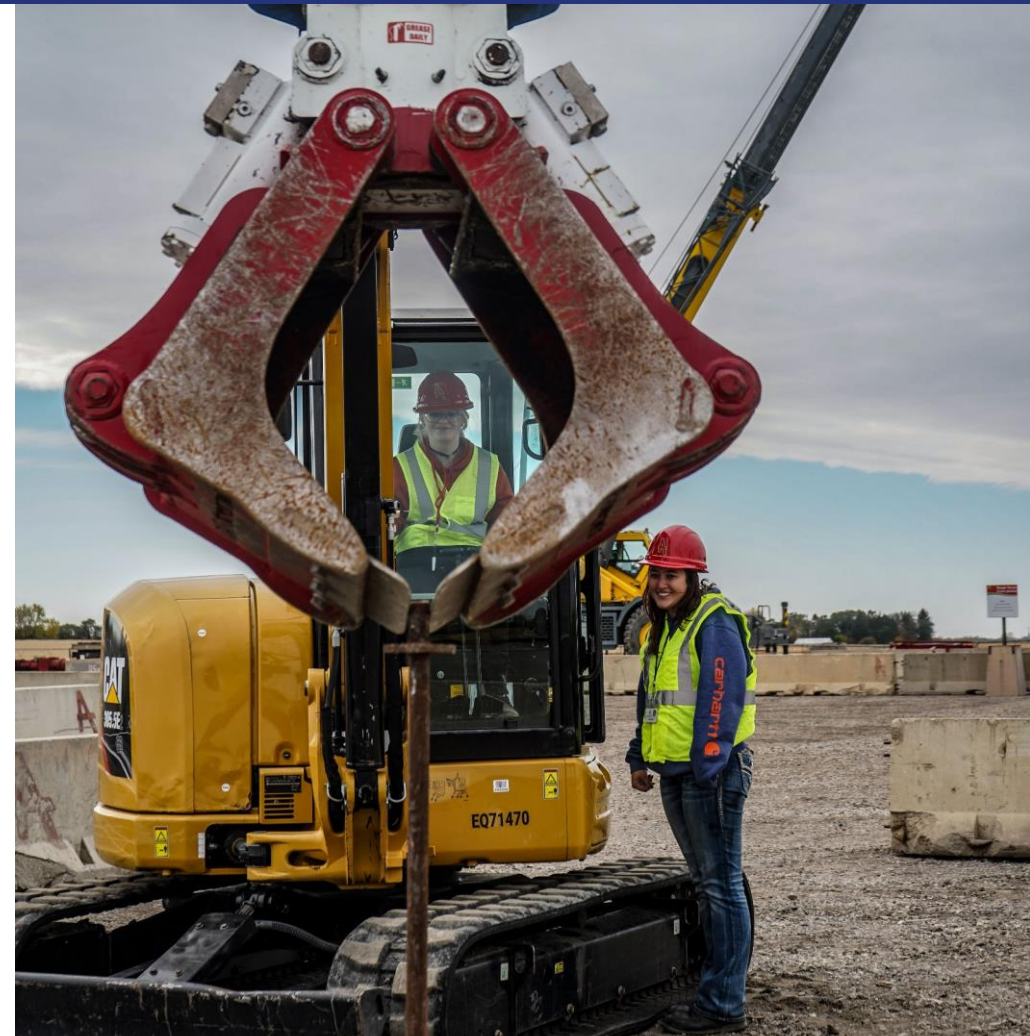
-Tim Ames, Midwest operations manager for Ames Construction

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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
- Senate File 1599 and House File 1996 provide \$300,000 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

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Thanks for supporting the future
of our students and our state!