

## AgCentric

AgCentric is a consortium of three colleges located in North, Central, and Western Minnesota. The Center is located at Central Lakes College (lead), Ridgewater College, and Northland Community and Technical College. Our goal is to develop and support excellence in agricultural, natural resources, and horticulture programs and career pathways in partnership with K-12, government, other academic institutions, and industry.

Goals are accomplished through secondary outreach, articulated partnership programs, innovative industry partnerships for employment and research, degree and apprentice programs, professional development, customized training, increasing collaboration between industry and academia.

### Key initiatives:

- Developing articulated career pathways and bridging academies with secondary schools;
- Developing agriculture and FFA summer camps for K-12 students;
- Hosting FFA regional camps and competitions;
- Developing common and shared curriculum offerings in agriculture, natural resources, and horticulture that increases access to more students.

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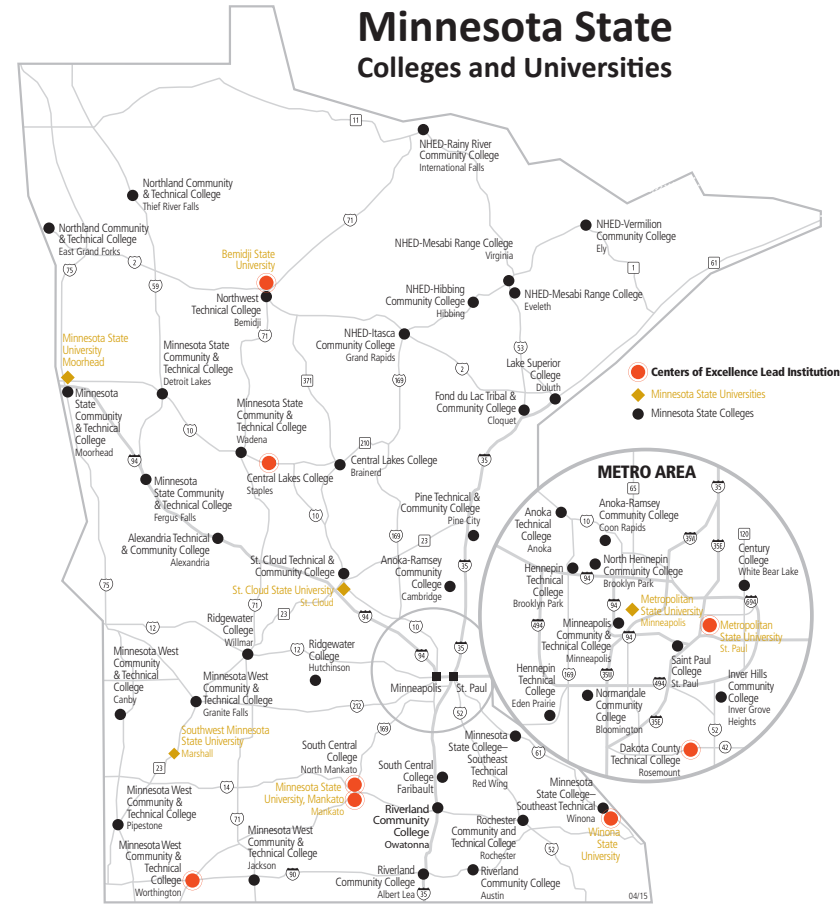
## The Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture

The Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture builds educational and business partnerships at all levels and within industries to fuel innovation, develop research programs, prepare industry professionals, and create opportunities both domestically and internationally. The Center provides students, teachers, and citizens broad network resources, career pathway options, and industry education to assist in successful innovation to prepare for the changing future.

### Key initiatives:

- Agricultural Symposium – farmer, industry, student and faculty enhancements;
- Internships in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) industry;
- Educator professional development – Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE Institutes);
- FFA career development events, sponsorship and enhancement of career pathways in AFNR;
- Industry partnerships;
- Farm business management education.

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Upon request, this document is available in alternative formats by calling one of the numbers above. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator.



MnSCU's Centers of Excellence promote connectivity between Minnesota industry and our colleges and universities. We help students with career exploration, learn on the latest technologies, and participate in work-based experiences. Working with faculty and partner organizations, the Centers support teaching and learning, curriculum development and help elevate industry's need for innovation in educational programs.

The Centers support talent development and recruitment in six critical industries:

- Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Information Technology
- Energy
- Manufacturing and engineering
- Transportation

MnSCU's Centers of Excellence facilitate education and training to meet employers workforce needs today and into the future.

## Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence

The Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (MNCEME) is a consortium of two-year colleges located throughout Minnesota, led by Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Center's goal is to develop forward-looking engineering and advanced manufacturing talent for industry.

### Key initiatives:

- Foundational engineering AS degrees offered by several MNCEME institutions, designed to enable students to transfer into 4-year engineering programs;
- Iron Range Engineering (IRE) and Twin Cities Engineering (TCE), two project-based engineering degree programs;
- Partnership with Smart Software Solutions (3S) to provide training and consultative services in the use of advanced embedded controllers for automation of industrial processes;
- Minnesota Project Lead The Way (PLTW) for K-12 students;
- Latino Engineering Academic Day (LEAD) and African-American Engineering Day, promoting STEM careers to high school students;
- STEM summer camps for middle school students.

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## Advance IT Minnesota

The Center strives to promote Information Technology (IT) career success for learners and provide employers with the IT talent needed to thrive in the information age. The center has three strategic goals:

1. Increase enrollment of qualified students in MnSCU IT programs by promoting IT career interest and readiness to target populations;
2. Enhance alignment of student learning outcomes with IT employer expectations and requirements;
3. Foster initial job attainment and career advancement of MnSCU graduates.

Advance IT Minnesota provides a variety of resources and programs to support these goals and works directly with IT program faculty.

### Key initiatives:

- Curriculum development needed for new programs and integration of workplace skills in IT programs;
- Student competitions that simulate "real world" application and promote student-employer connections;
- Websites that provide career, program and labor market information needed by faculty and students for decision making.

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## Minnesota Transportation Center

The Minnesota Transportation Center of Excellence is a consortium of 12 two-year colleges located throughout Minnesota, led by Dakota County Technical College. The Center is focused on developing a highly-skilled workforce to meet the current and future needs of the transportation industry in Minnesota. This is accomplished through K-12 outreach, promotion of best practices, professional development, and collaboration between industry, secondary and post-secondary institutions.

### Key initiatives:

- Partner with high school automotive and diesel programs to develop an "academy" structure, where appropriate;
- Serve as a central contact point between industry and higher education;
- Collaborate with subject matter experts in higher education and industry to develop a toolbox of best practices to ensure programs are prepared for new and expanding technologies;
- Promote awareness of employment opportunities in transportation industry careers including aviation, rail, and marine.

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## HealthForce Minnesota

HealthForce Minnesota provides the healthcare industry with a well-trained, flexible workforce; creates ongoing capacity to transform health science education and delivery; and is positioning Minnesota as a global leader in healthcare education, practice, research and innovation. Led by Winona State University, HealthForce Minnesota partners with educators and employers to identify and solve healthcare workforce challenges.

### Key initiatives:

- Healthcare Education Industry Partnership (HEIP) Council – healthcare employers, educators, state agencies, and organizations meet quarterly to focus on Minnesota's healthcare workforce challenges and opportunities;
- Clinical Coordination Partnership – increases clinical site capacity through standardized and transparent processes;
- Mental Health Workforce – published a statewide Mental Health Report to develop a mental health workforce plan for the Minnesota Legislature;
- Scrubs Camps – provides high school and middle school students the opportunity to explore healthcare careers.

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## 360 Manufacturing and Applied Engineering

360 is guided by the vision of a 21st Century education system that prepares individuals to participate fully in rewarding careers in manufacturing and which meets the needs of the region's manufacturing employers. A single goal is pursued: to increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of technicians in the field of manufacturing. To accomplish the goal, 360 advances two objectives:

- 1) Enhanced Pipeline – Prepare students for rigorous manufacturing programs that entices them to pursue manufacturing careers; and
- 2) Industry-driven Curriculum – Curriculum that is relevant to today's and tomorrow's manufacturing industry.

### Key initiatives:

- Technology and career events for middle school and high school youth;
- VEX Robotics Competition for middle school and high school youth;
- Dream It Do It Statewide Recruitment Program;
- Minnesota Statewide Tour of Manufacturing;
- 360 Seamless Career Pathway with the eTECH multi-college, online and hands-on consortium-based certificates, AAS degree to university BAS degree.

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## Minnesota Energy Center

The Minnesota Energy Center (MnEC) is a consortium of two-year colleges located throughout Minnesota, led by Minnesota West Community and Technical College and St Cloud Technical and Community College. Our primary focus is development of programming to prepare technicians for the energy production industry. Degree programs cover the broad spectrum of energy production technologies including Bio-fuels, Ethanol, Solar, Wind, Fossil Fuels, and Nuclear.

### Key initiatives:

- Workforce Development – the right education and training to support the energy industry;
- Pipeline – increased awareness of energy related career opportunities;
- Research – education and Industry partnerships that advance research in energy related fields;
- Collaboration at national level with the Center for Energy Workforce Development and the Nuclear Energy Institute;
- Regional collaboration with Great Lakes States partnership;
- Education partner for the Minnesota Energy Consortium.

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