

## **Regional Apprenticeship Training Center (RATC)**

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS

The Minneapolis Regional Apprenticeship Training Center (RATC) is proposed to be a public-private partnership between regional public-school districts, municipalities, Minnesota state community and technical colleges, union trade and business groups. It will provide tuition-free vocational training options for public school students, apprenticeships, and internships in energy, technical, construction and emerging sustainability technologies. The training center will help the region address workforce shortages, narrow skills gaps for people of color, increase public school graduation rates, and pull more families out of poverty.

Northgate Development (ND) purchased the former state-owned workforce center at 1200 Plymouth Avenue in December 2017. ND is currently renovating the first phase of the existing 22,000 square foot building for its lease to Minneapolis Climate Action for use as a training center. Today's request will cover cost associated with overruns due to substantial increases in construction of the existing building and provide funding for planning and design of the new facility on the adjacent vacant lot 1112 Plymouth, where planning funding will be used to design and construct the 100k- 120k square foot expansion. This facility will accommodate the broader region of public schools for career and technical education.

As public schools seek to meet the legislative requirements of Minnesota's World's Best Workforce legislation (Minn Stat [120B.11](#) & [120B.125](#) which requires all districts to offer career and technical education) this expansion will help meet the districts and regions employers workforce needs, while also increasing graduation rates. The site is located in the heart of Minneapolis' Promise Zone and is accessible to the region by way of states busiest transit line, the 5-bus line and recently opened D-Line, a bus rapid transit line; which is a 5 minute bus ride from the Twins Stadium where the blue, green and southwest light rail connect.

### **C-TECH Model in Rochester**

The RATC is closely modeled on a highly successful program of vocational training in Rochester, Minnesota. [C-TECH](#) is a partnership of the City of Rochester, Rochester Public Schools, Rochester Community Technical College (RCTC), Winona State University, and the local business community. The program became so popular other districts requested access. C-TECH offers two-hour blocks in 12 vocational fields for students for all three Rochester high schools. In just its first few years of operation, C-TECH has produced amazing results:

- In 2017, C-TECH provided vocational training to 1,650 Rochester public school students, about 10 percent of the district's total enrollment;
- Enrollment of Rochester school students at RCC has increased significantly
- High school students receive credits toward two-year associate degrees and, in some cases, have received their associate degree before getting their high school diploma.