

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY



PAVING THE ROAD
TO SUCCESS



Stride
Career Prep



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



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.

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



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

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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.



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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.



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

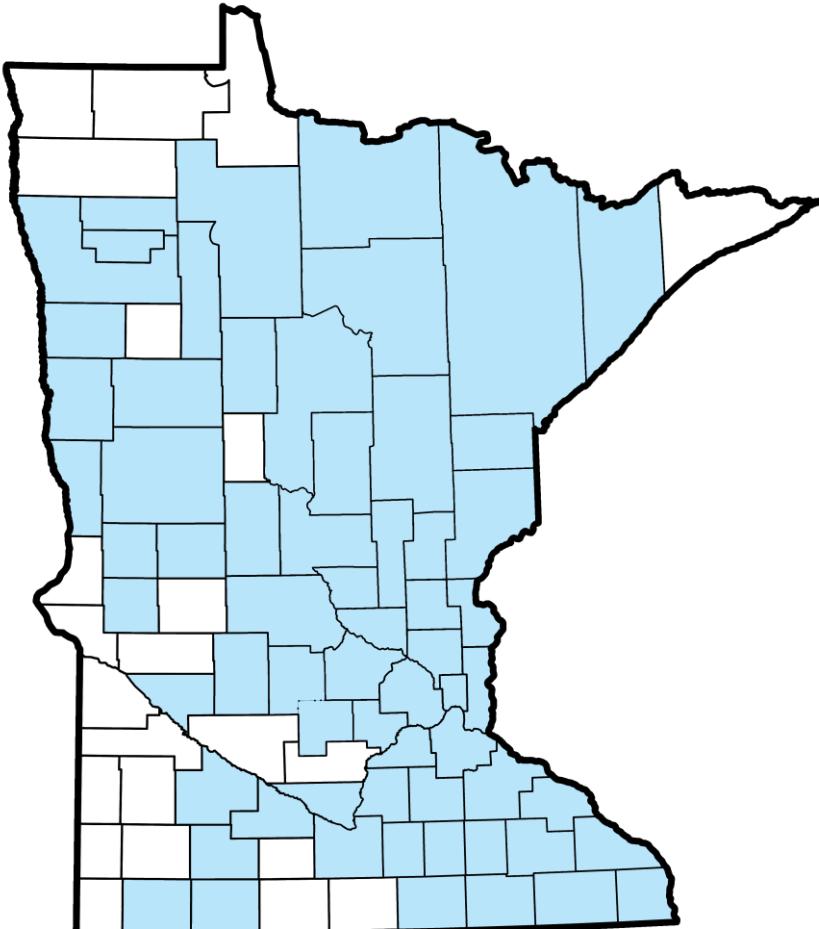


CAREER NAVIGATORS

- 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

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



**STUDENTS ENROLL
FROM ACROSS
MINNESOTA**

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



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

-Marley Sherbon, Caledonia Pathway graduate and Local 49 apprentice

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS



“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**

OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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



OPERATING ENGINEERS PATHWAY

PAVING THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

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!

CONTACTS

- **Mary Morem**,
Superintendent
Houston Public Schools
ISD 294
mary.morem@hsd294.us
- **Jenny Winkelaar**
Director of Workforce &
Community Development
IUOE Local 49
jwinkelaar@local49.org