



**Final Report**  
**Minnesota Diversified Industries, Inc.**  
**February 10, 2026**

**1. Describe the major activities accomplished during this grant period.**

Unified Work had 57 participants that we were able to be enrolled in the State's Workforce One system, however, a total of 864 participants and 51 classes were since the start of the grant in July 2024. 74% had a disability and 3% disclosed they were BIPOC. Classes included Career Skills courses, both 1 & 2, and the Emotional Intelligence class, and STEM curriculum, these classes totaled more than 600 hours of training to participants.

Unified Work reached out to more than 25 businesses in their efforts to offer classes and discuss inclusive employment.

**Recommendations for future delivery methods**

Unified Work believes the most effective way to deliver training is live in-person followed closely by live virtual courses. However, to scale and reach more people with disabilities and other barriers to employment, the creation of a Learning Management System (LMS) was needed. Unified Work now has an LMS available to users who are interested in taking classes. The eLearning is constructed as a TV show called *HIRED* which tells a story where people with barriers to employment can be learning skills while watching. Instead of commercials, there are learning checks that participants can answer to gauge what they are learning. *HIRED* can be utilized by an individual and also by a group with a facilitator of the class.

Although no State Allocated funds were allocated to research, we continue to work with the University of MN's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI). CAREI previously developed a new curriculum map that is now guiding the work of developing a new online learning platform. CAREI has also helped us to design our Theory of Change for the curriculum and people with I/DD and are beginning work on development of efficacy assessments to evaluate the programs.

## **2. What were your successes for this reporting period? Share 1-3 anecdotes, stories, or other narratives.**

Our primary focus continues to be offering classes. Our enrollment in all courses has continued to be at or near capacity, particularly for our remote Career Skills and Emotional Intelligence classes.

We concluded another semester working with students from Transition Plus in Minneapolis. Another great group of committed students earned their Unified Work Academy certificates. At the conclusion of the class, the students took a field trip to MDI for a tour of the manufacturing floor and demonstrated their learning by delivering their personal elevator pitches.

The virtual reality is not funded through the grant but our partnership with Transfr VR is allowing us to pilot the VR work experiences with several different audiences including Transition Schools, organizations who support people with disabilities, and individuals with disabilities. We have deployed 35 VR headsets into the community for their use.

Also not paid for by this State Appropriation, three STEM boxes have been created: STEM Circuits, STEM Invent, and STEM Robot. The courses are being piloted and well-received thus far.