



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Center for Strategic Information Technology and Security

Lead institution and partners: Metropolitan State University in St. Paul with Inver Hills Community College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Focus: Develop new curricula, programs and credentials that anticipate and fulfill needs for educating and training workers in computer information systems, computer forensics and computer security.

Background: Businesses depend more than ever on complex and secure information systems. As information technology becomes increasingly sophisticated, workers must have more specialized knowledge and skills. This center will offer educational programs and services that are cutting edge, accessible and responsive. Activities will focus on career readiness, career preparation, career advancement and professional development for individuals, private and public organizations and industry associations.

Center for Integrated Health Science Education and Practice

Lead institution and partners: Winona State University with Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Riverland Community College in Albert Lea and Austin, Rochester Community and Technical College, Pine Technical College in Pine City, Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical in Red Wing and Winona and Ridgewater College in Willmar and Hutchinson.

Focus: Position Minnesota as a leader in health care education, practice and innovation, particularly for recruiting and retaining a more diverse health care workforce. Prepare and support professional development of a work force that understands technological advances and link health care education with health care practice.

Background: The U.S. faces rapidly changing and complex challenges in health care. Demand for workers is likely to grow as the population ages. Higher education must work closely with health care practitioners to create and adopt innovative approaches that help contain health care costs while offering access to the highest quality services.

Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence

Lead institution and partners: Minnesota State University, Mankato, with Alexandria Technical College, Anoka Technical College, Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie, Normandale Community College in Bloomington, South Central College in Faribault and North Mankato and Northeast Higher Education District in International Falls, Ely, Virginia, Hibbing, Eveleth, Grand Rapids and Itasca.

Focus: Engage in partnership with K-12 education and industry to address workforce needs in these critically important occupations and promote best practices in preparing engineers and technicians.

Background: To stay ahead of global competitors, Minnesota companies must have highly skilled and efficient workers, who think creatively and adapt rapidly. By joining with local schools and industry, this center will increase the pool of technically educated graduates and certified employees and develop a national reputation for assisting innovative manufacturers, particularly related to automation and renewable and recyclable resources.

Minnesota Consortium for Manufacturing and Applied Engineering

Lead institution and partners: Bemidji State University with Central Lakes College in Brainerd and Staples, Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, Northland Community and Technical College in Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks, Pine Technical College in Pine City, Saint Paul College, St. Cloud Technical College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Focus: This consortium will create a labor pool of talented and well-skilled students, develop innovative processes and enhance the ability of Minnesota manufacturers to be highly competitive in the global economy.

Background: Minnesota faces serious shortages of highly skilled manufacturing workers. By developing strong ties with K-12 education, the consortium will help students develop strong math and science skills and engage their creativity in manufacturing through "hands-on" learning activities. Applied research activities will offer opportunities for students and faculty at the university and colleges to design and employ best practices to stay ahead of the competition.