

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

**Minnesota State Domestic Maritime Workforce Consortium –
Lake Superior College – Duluth, MN**

The Secretary of Transportation designates the Minnesota State Domestic Maritime Workforce Consortium (MSDMWC), incorporating Lake Superior College (LSC) as the lead institution, as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) Operating from Duluth, MN, the largest two-year college in northeastern Minnesota serving America's farthest inland international freshwater seaport, LSC anchors maritime technical training and industrial trade pathways across the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway.

Operational Footprint & Assets

- **Duluth Seaway Port Anchor:** Directly integrated with the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, supporting 20 privately owned bulk cargo docks, an award-winning general cargo terminal, marine fueling depots, shipyard dry docks, tug/barge services, and Class I rail terminals.
- **Off-Site Apprenticeship Facility:** Operates the LSC Sheet Metal Workers Training Center in Saginaw, MN (15 miles from main campus), in partnership with International Association of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #10 to deliver 46-credit Diploma and 60-credit AAS degree tracks.
- **Comprehensive Ashore Program Portfolio:** Offers 15 maritime-related credit and non-credit programs, including Civil Engineering Technology (AAS/Diploma), Commercial and Residential Wiring (AAS/Diploma), CNC Machine Programming & Automated Machining, Welding & Fabrication, Boilermaker/Boiler Operator prep, Cyber Defense/Cybersecurity, CDL Truck Driving, Fire Technology & Administration, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- **Port Safety & Emergency Response Infrastructure:** Delivers specialized maritime safety, hazmat operations, water/ice rescue, and emergency medical responder training to support port security, terminal safety, and emergency response teams across the Duluth-Superior harbor.
- **K-12 Maritime Education Pipeline:** Partners with the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD) Minnesota Sea Grant program to deliver the Great Lakes Maritime Transportation Education Program (GLMTEP). This curated curriculum introduces middle and high school students across Minnesota to Great Lakes commercial shipping, port operations, and maritime trades.

Workforce & Regional Impact

- **High Career Placement Success:** Achieves an 88.2% overall related employment rate across all technical majors, with verified 100% placement in Civil Engineering Technology, Welding, Machine Tool Technology, Bookkeeping, Auto Service, and Commercial/Residential Wiring.
- **Stackable Career Pathways:** Integrates secondary Perkins consortium pathways with LSC credit/non-credit certificates to allow workers and students to earn industry-embedded credentials, enter the workforce, and return for advanced degrees.

Strategic Outlook

As the lead institution of the consortium, Lake Superior College is expanding its Great Lakes shipping partnerships to address critical shortages in vessel maintenance, dock operations, and freight logistics. Utilizing GLMTEP K-12 outreach, LSC is building future afloat career credentialing programs in collaboration with UMD, University of Wisconsin-Superior, and Northwoods College. By leveraging the broader 30-institution Minnesota State system, LSC ensures Great Lakes commercial fleets and port facilities maintain a steady pipeline of certified welders, electricians, civil technicians, and mariners.