

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

**Minnesota State Domestic Maritime Workforce Consortium –
Duluth, St. Paul, Winona, & Red Wing, Minnesota**

The Secretary of Transportation designates the Minnesota State Domestic Maritime Workforce Consortium (MSDMWC) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its multi-institutional collaboration in technical trades, inland waterway logistics, and port workforce development across Minnesota. Led by Lake Superior College in Duluth alongside Saint Paul College and Minnesota State College Southeast, MSDMWC operates in partnership with the Minnesota Ports Association to support America's farthest inland international freshwater seaport and the Upper Mississippi River system.

Operational Footprint & Institutional Consortium

MSDMWC unifies technical training and port infrastructure across three core institutions:

- **Lake Superior College (Lead | Duluth, MN):** 15 maritime tracks; features an off-site SMART Local #10 Sheet Metal Apprenticeship facility (Saginaw, MN), CNC automation, civil engineering, fire, EMT, and specialized port safety/water-ice rescue labs.
- **Saint Paul College (St. Paul, MN):** Offers 12+ Upper Mississippi trade tracks, including pipefitting (building trades & service), robotic welding, electromechanical systems, and truck technician/diesel mechanics. Designated a Yellow Ribbon Organization collaborating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Saint Paul Public Schools.
- **Minnesota State College Southeast (Winona & Red Wing, MN):** Delivers 22 Mississippi riverport training tracks with ASE-certified collision repair facilities, structural welding bays, heavy equipment labs, and "Connect to College" high school pipelines.
- **Technical Credentials:** Grants A.A.S. degrees, diplomas, and stackable certificates in Civil Engineering, Electrical Wiring, CNC Machining, Welding, Sheet Metal, Heavy Equipment, Cybersecurity, and CDL Truck Driving.
- **Port Infrastructure Partners:** Direct integration with Duluth Seaway (20 bulk docks, dry docks), Saint Paul (4 barge terminals), Red Wing, and Winona Port Authorities.

Workforce & Regional Impact

Achieves high career placement in core maritime and technical disciplines:

- **LSC:** 88.2% overall related employment rate, with 100% placement in Civil Engineering, Welding, Machine Tool, and Commercial Wiring.
- **MSCS:** 95.9% related employment rate, with near-100% placement in Welding, CDL Truck Driving, and Heavy Equipment trades.
- **SPC:** 71% to 80% related employment and continuing education placement across technical trade majors.

- **Regional Student Reach & Support:** Serves students across the Twin Ports, Twin Cities, southeastern Minnesota, and upper Mississippi industrial corridors through flexible scheduling, advising, and open trade access.
- **K-12 Maritime Outreach:** Partners with Minnesota Sea Grant (UMD) to deliver the Great Lakes Maritime Transportation Education Program (GLMTEP), introducing middle and high school students to commercial shipping and river barge careers.
- **Public Infrastructure & Trade Engine:** Supplies the primary workforce engine for 20 bulk cargo docks in Duluth-Superior and four Mississippi River barge terminals managed by the Saint Paul Port Authority.

Strategic Outlook

Addressing workforce demands across tugboat crews, deckhands, and shipyard technicians, MSDMWC continues expanding its regional training pipeline. By embedding stackable credentials into manufacturing career pathways, leveraging the broader 30-institution Minnesota State system, and developing future afloat career credentialing programs, the Minnesota State Domestic Maritime Workforce Consortium ensures a resilient, highly trained workforce for inland waterway commerce and international Great Lakes trade.