

MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE CENTER

### Building partnerships to develop tomorrow's transportation workforce



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## Challenges

The workforce of the future will be smaller, more diverse, and workers will have more options for careers than in the past. With the addition of baby boomer retirements and vacancies, emerging technologies, and environmental and climate considerations, the knowledge and skills required of future transportation workers will be dramatically different than today.

In order to develop a diverse, competitive, sustainable transportation workforce, industry, education, and labor need to work together to improve career readiness and career awareness, especially at the K-12 level.

Industry-driven training and industry-recognized credentials will allow for worker mobility within and between fields. Building career pathways that reflect new competencies, use innovative instructional methods, account for life experiences, and allow for the stacking of credentials are some ways we can recruit and retain a skilled transportation workforce.

## **A Regional Center**

The Midwest Transportation Workforce Center (MTWC) will take a strategic approach to workforce development by engaging and facilitating partnerships between the transportation industry, education, and economic development sectors in nine Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

In these states, the MTWC will build alliances with industry members, leaders, and associations, as well as with labor, government, and education, including universities, technical colleges, and school systems. The MTWC will also work with local community-based organizations.

The MTWC will collaborate with the private and public sectors to align and integrate existing workforce development programs and resources, identify gaps, and propose short- and longer-term solutions to critical transportation workforce needs.

# **A National Network**



The Midwest Transportation Workforce Center (MTWC) is one of five regional centers that make up the National Network for the Transportation Workforce (NNTW).

The MTWC is led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The other centers are led by Montana State University (West), California State University, Long Beach (Southwest), University of Vermont (Northeast), and The University of Memphis (Southeast).

Individually, each center will gather stakeholders and leverage knowledge and ideas; inventory best practices and service delivery models which also save time and resources; generate awareness for job providers, job seekers, and those exploring career choices in high demand fields; facilitate communications, connections, and strategies; serve as a clearinghouse for information on programs, careers, training, curriculums, and education; and describe career pathways and ladders which promote choices and mobility for all.

Together, the centers will contribute to a national strategy for transportation workforce development. This collaboration will build the National Network for the Transportation Workforce.

These five regional centers and the national network that they form are funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FWHA) and administered through the FHWA Technology Partnership Program.

# Contact Information

The MTWC is located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and led by Dr. Teresa Adams, a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The MTWC is affiliated with the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE).

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