STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Travis Thul

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

Registered Consulting Electrical Engineer Member
Board of Electricity

Effective: January 4, 2021

Expires: December 31, 2023

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed December 23, 2020.

Tim Walz
Governor

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Replacing: Chad Kurdi

Filed on December 23, 2020
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon

ıpplication for the position Registered Consulting Electrical Engineer

art I: Position Sought

gency Name: Board Of Electricity
osition: Registered Consulting Electrical Engineer

art II: Applicant Information

ame: Dr. Travis Michael Thul P.E.
hone: (651) 399-6826
ounty: Winona
In House District: 28A
S House District: 1
ecommended by the Appointing Authority: False

art III: Appending Documentation

over Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
:over Letter	application/pdf
:esume	application/pdf

dditional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
lews Article	Supporting_Docs.pdf

eteran: Yes

art V: Signature

ignature: Travis Michael Thul
ate: 10/19/2020 6:34:03 PM

October 18, 2020

Hon. Gov. Tim Walz
C/O:
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1299

Hon. Gov. Walz,

In compliance with the process associated with serving on the Minnesota Board of Electricity, I am submitting this cover letter describing my interest in applying for the Registered Consulting Electrical Engineer position.

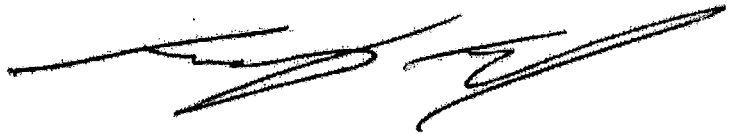
As a licensed Professional Engineer, managing partner of an engineering firm, educator, and veteran, I believe that I bring a unique skill-set aligned with the Board's mission of regulating professionals' continuing education, adoption of the National Electrical Code (NEC), interpreting associated standards, and oversight of pertinent licenses. Specific attributes aligned with the Board includes:

- 10 years as a licensed Professional Engineer charged with knowledge and interpretation of the National Electric Code (NEC).
- Practical experience applying the NEC as both a military and civilian engineer, including in rehabilitating Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria, as well as towards the development of both maritime and terrestrial power systems.
- Six years leading engineering standards development as a Chairman for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- Nearly a decade serving as an academic leader focused on training the tradesmen of tomorrow, as well as conducting research into advanced power electronics systems.
- Managing partner of an engineering firm which has solicited deals across the nation towards the development and production of novel engineering designs.
- Between roles as a military officer, college dean, and non-partisan White House Fellow, I've worked with elected and appointed leaders at all levels of government towards the common goal of bettering our society through technology and education.

While the above examples are not all-inclusive, I believe they demonstrate a unique alignment with the mission Minnesota's Board of Electricity. I am optimistic that my experience in the civilian sector, military, and academia will justify consideration as the Board's Registered Consulting Electrical Engineer.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Travis M. Thul P.E.

Dr. Travis M. Thul, P.E. || 651-399-6826 || travis.m.thul@ieee.org
Engineer. Educator. Entrepreneur. Veteran.

Civilian Positions:

The White House, Washington DC — **AUG2020 – Present**
White House Fellow (non-partisan, on detached duty military orders)

- Serves within the Office of the President & Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States with mission focused on Transformational Exports.
- Duties include development and execution of policy designed to increase exports of U.S. manufactured high-technology products including renewable energy systems, energy storage, 5G technology, and artificial intelligence.
- Position sits at the nexus of high technology, international finance, and foreign policy.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) C63.30 Wireless Power Transfer Working Group — **JAN2014 - Present**
Chairman & Electrical Engineer

- Leads international team of ~50 engineers towards the development of engineering standard for the testing of Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) apparatuses; team members include Toyota, Intel, UL, Ford, and Apple.
- Responsible for test development, testing, process validation, and consensus building across public & private sectors.
- Draft standard to be adopted by Federal Communications Commission and Industry Canada, impacting billions of dollars worth of associated Industrial, Scientific, and Medical equipment.
- Goal is largest EMC engineering development and analytical contribution since publication of FCC's MP-5 in 1979.

2T2J, Inc., Winona MN — **MAR2014 – Present**
Managing Partner & Majority Owner

- Privately held firm focused on intellectual property generation, product design, engineering, and realization.
- Engineering team has solicited deals across the nation with focus on electrical, mechanical, and plastic technology.
- Responsible for legal, web design, and engineering team; including outreach to prospective Fortune 500 partners.

Minnesota State College Southeast, Winona MN, Red Wing MN, & Online — **MAY2016 – AUG2019**
Dean of Technology, Business, Transportation, & Trades

- Led team of 35 faculty across applied engineering, business, advanced manufacturing, and transportation programs; including $3M budget, 12 technical laboratories, and three campuses (including online).
- Spearheaded largest fundraising campaign in the college's history, netting over a million dollars in cash and in-kind contributions earmarked for expansion of state-of-the-art engineering and rapid prototyping laboratories.
- Author of National Science Foundation grant "Rural Advanced Manufacturing Educational Hubs", awarded ~$500k, and named Principal Investigator with the mission of deploying prototype engineering curriculum, credentials, and equipment at regional high schools in order to expand access to collegiate level engineering education.
- Built world's first AAS in Bicycle Design & Fabrication, reimagining technical education around application based curriculum; received international press, maximum enrollment upon launch, and thousands of dollars in donations.
- Worked with state elected officials on execution of Youth Skills Training legislation, increasing minors enrolled in technical college curriculum and attending paid internships through local industry.
- Partnered with regional universities to establish transferable AAS Technology to BS Engineering degrees.
- Rising Stars Under 40 Award recipient from Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin regional business community.

US Federal Communications Commission, Washington DC — **AUG2013 – AUG2016**
Electronics Engineer (GS14-3)

- Responsible for interpretation and proposed rule makings to 47 Code of Federal Regulations for electromagnetic compliance & radiofrequency exposure, including Part 15, Part 18, and Part 2 rules.
- Conducted EMC testing across OATs and SAC facilities, drafted FCC Knowledge Database guidance, & worked with Telecommunication Certificate Bodies & laboratories to facilitate legal operational accreditations.
- National Society of Professional Engineers Federal Engineer of the Year Award recipient for FCC and FCC Leadership Award recipient.

Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville MD — **JAN2013 - MAY 2016**
Engineering/Technology Program Coordinator & Adjunct Engineering Faculty

- Program Coordinator at largest Community College in MD (60,000 students, 3 campuses, & 3 centers).
- Oversight of Engineering Tech Programs; hiring faculty, curriculum development, & laboratory construction.
- D.R.E.A.M Innovation Award for establishing strategic partnerships yielding millions in donated equipment.
- Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award recipient for outstanding dedication to education and teaching.

Dr. Travis M. Thul, P.E. || 651-399-6826 || travis.m.thul@ieee.org
Engineer. Educator. Entrepreneur. Veteran.

Military Positions:

US Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan, Milwaukee WI — **OCT2019 – AUG2020**
Deputy Incident Commander & Executive Steering Committee Delegate (Lt. Commander, O4)

- By-name selectee to lead US Coast Guard planning and execution of 2020 Democratic National Convention (DNC) National Special Security Event (NSSE).
- Represented USCG at US Secret Service's NSSE Executive Steering Committee, Chaired Maritime Security Subcommittee charged with coordinating multiagency maritime operations, and served as Deputy Incident Commander for the Maritime Incident Command.
- Total oversight of 28 personnel from local and federal jurisdictions, with missions spanning cyber security, tactics, counter unmanned aerial systems, and critical infrastructure.
- Totality of mission planned security for 47 US senators, 234 US congressmen, 26 governors, 50,000 attendees, two former presidents, and one presidential nominee.

US Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan, Milwaukee WI — **OCT2016 - SEP2019**
Reserve Prevention Officer (Lt. Commander, O4)

- Deployable Incident Management Team Officer, responsible for rapid deployment to Tier 1 disasters.
- Deputy Planning Section Chief responsible for data fusion and common operating picture assessment of East Coast operations during Hurricane Florence, briefing Flag Offices and senior civilian personnel on multiagency response.
- Deputy Logistics Section Chief leading team of 30+ engineering personnel towards the rehabilitation of USCG facilities across three islands during the aftermath of Maria, including contracting, emergency repairs, and contingency power operations.
- When not deployed, led oversight of reserve Marine Safety Technician staff, interagency outreach with Army Corps of Engineers, contingency training exercises, and served as reserve training officer.
- Provided support for maritime events throughout AOR and tertiary Incident Command System activities.
- Recipient of Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Armed Forces Service Medal.

US Coast Guard Marine Safety Center, Washington DC — **AUG2013 - OCT2016**
Reserve Staff Electrical Engineering Officer (Lieutenant, O3)

- Responsible for review and approval of maritime electrical power systems, impacting federal and civilian vessels.
- Duties included implementation of 46 Code of Federal Regulations Subchapters T & K, assessment of compliance with National Electrical Code, UL, & IEEE standards, as well as review of hazardous area schematics for barges.
- Recipient of Commandant's Letter of Commendation and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

US Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington DC — **AUG2012 – AUG2013**
Active Duty Deputy Engineering Resource Manager (Lieutenant, O3)

- Oversaw C4ISR engineering project encompassing testing, budget, laboratories, development, & deployment across surface and aircraft platforms.
- Responsibilities spanned contract evaluation, cost tracking, 8M budget, & implementation oversight.
- Oversight included satellite systems, TCP/IP networks, TEMPEST compliance, and multisystem integration.
- Conducted risk analysis, financial projections, & earned value management on 24 contracts.
- United States Coast Guard Engineer of the Year award nominee & Commandant's Letter of Commendation recipient.

US Coast Guard Telecom & Info Systems Command, Alexandria VA — **JUL2008 – AUG2012**
Active Duty Project Engineer, Lieutenant (O2/O3)

- Engineer responsible for design, quality assurance, testing, procurement, and deployment of RF, IT, & electro-mechanical systems supporting USCG tactical communications, & maritime satellite connectivity.
- Successfully deployed Ku-Band and L-Band SATCOM capabilities across 30+ High Endurance Cutters throughout North America.
- Successfully produced Enhanced Mobile Incident Command Posts (eMICP) and Mobile Communications Vehicle (MCV) platforms, increasing USCG command and control capabilities during contingency events spanning UN General Assembly, Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, training exercises in the Caribbean, and Incident Command Post San Juan in Puerto Rico.
- Led team of engineers, technicians, and support staff with $3M annual budget, contract review technical evaluation teams, and development of statements-of-work & internal government cost estimates.
- US Coast Guard Commendation Medal recipient.

Dr. Travis M. Thul, P.E. || 651-399-6826 || travis.m.thul@ieee.org
Engineer. Educator. Entrepreneur. Veteran.

Education:

The George Washington University, Washington DC

- Doctor of Engineering (D. Eng.) in Engineering Management (Aug 2018), 3.94 GPA
- Research focus on "*Wireless Power Transfer Parameter Optimization for Electromagnetic Compliance (EMC)....*"
- Curriculum included Uncertainty Analysis for Engineers, Data Analysis for Engineers, & Risk Management

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Madison WI

- Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (May 2008), 3.7 GPA
- Research focus on "*Wireless Kilowatt Level Power Transfer via Medium Frequency Induction...*"
- Curriculum included Power Electronics Circuit Design, Dynamics & Control of AC Drives, & Solid State Power

Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee WI

- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology w/ Minor in Mathematics (May 2006), 3.6 GPA
- Curriculum focus included electric vehicle developed, embedded systems design, & industrial automation

Publications & Patents:

T. Thul, "A Systems Engineering Framework for Wireless Power Transfer Parameter Optimization Based on Electromagnetic and RF Exposure Compliance in the U.S. Marketplace", *Doctor of Engineering, The George Washington University*, 2018.

T. Thul and E. Oh, "Tailoring Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education to a Study Abroad Environment", in Maryland Community College International Education Consortium - Effective On-Site Teaching for Global Awareness, Havana, Cuba, 2016.

T. M. Thul, J. G. Johnson, "Steam Injecting Brewer", U.S. Patent D768,423, Oct 11, 2016.

T. M. Thul, J. G. Johnson, "Apparatus & Process for Rapidly Cooking Food", U. S. Patent 14/532,380, Nov 04, 2014.

T. M. Thul, J. G. Johnson, "Drip Brewer", U.S. Patent D707485 S1, Jun 24, 2014.

Thul, Travis M. Efficient, Wireless, Kilowatt Level Power Transfer via Medium Frequency, Inductively Coupled Resonating Devices over Sub-Meter Distances. *Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin – Madison*: 2008.

Travis M. Thul, "Design of Efficient Wireless Power Transfer via Medium Frequency Inductive Resonant Coupling within Sustainable Building", *2008 Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES) Conference*, April 2008.

Travis M. Thul, "Design Principles of Human Energy Harvesting Devices and their
Power Electronics Systems", *2007 Center for Power Electronics (CPES), Systems Conference*, April. 2007.

Certifications, Qualifications, & Accolades

2020 White House Fellow
2020 Awarded Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Senior Member status
2020 United States Coast Guard Commendation Medal
2018 United States Coast Guard Achievement Medal
US TOP SECRET Clearance
Licensed Professional Engineer (MN, WI)
2017 Rising Stars Under 40 Award Winner for Minnesota, Wisconsin, & Iowa 7 Rivers Region
2016 National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Engineer of the Year Award Winner for the FCC
2016 United State Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
2016 & 2013United States Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation Award
2015 FCC Superior Achievement Award Winner for leadership
2015 Community College of Baltimore County D.R.E.A.M Innovation & Resource Award winner
2013 Community College of Baltimore County School of Applied & Information Technology Adjunct of the Year
2013 United States Coast Guard Engineer of the Year award nominee
2012 United States Coast Guard Commendation Medal
2006 Frank Rogers Bacon Fellowship Recipient

EXIM
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

MENU

NEWS

EXIM Chairman Kimberly Reed Addresses 2020-2021 Class of White House Fellows

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **October 1, 2020**

Media Contact Name/Phone: Office of Communications (202) 565-3207

WASHINGTON – Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) President and Chairman Kimberly A. Reed today addressed the 2020-2021 class of White House Fellows.

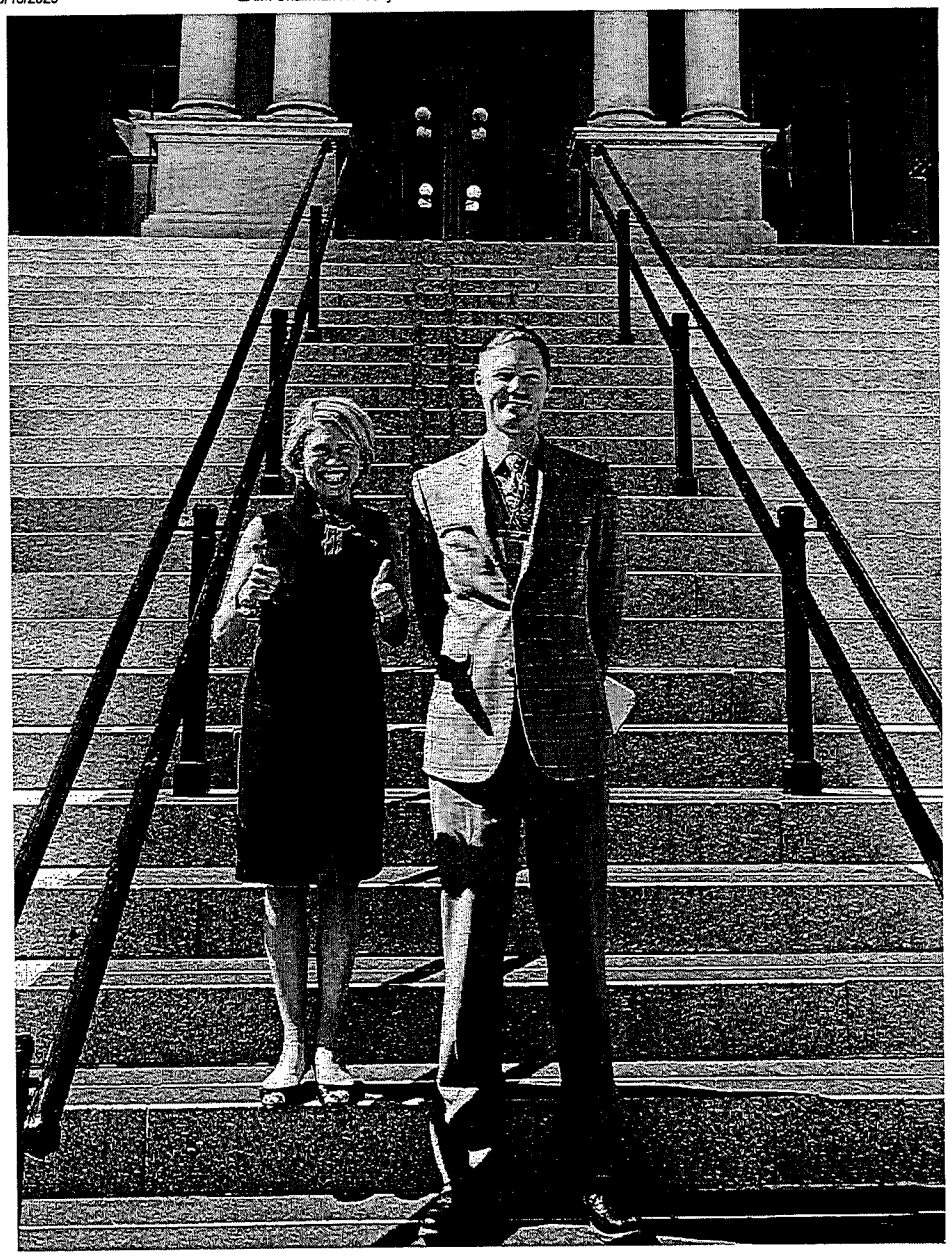
In her remarks, Chairman Reed discussed the mission of EXIM—supporting American jobs by facilitating U.S. exports—and the important work the agency has accomplished since May 2019, when President Trump and the U.S. Senate, on an overwhelming bipartisan basis, restored the quorum of EXIM's Board of Directors, thereby fully re-opening the agency after nearly four years of relative dormancy. During the question and answer session, the Chairman also provided insight into how hard work, diligence, and a desire to learn fostered leadership and laid the foundation for her professional career and commitment to public service.

2020-2021 White House Fellows with Chairman Reed (front row, center), SVP David Trulio (on Chairman Reed's left), and Director Elizabeth Pinkerton (front row, far right)

"I am the biggest advocate of the White House Fellows program, and I congratulate the 2020-2021 class of White House Fellows. This outstanding group of young professionals not only have the rare opportunity to work at the highest levels of government, but they will be transformed as leaders during their fellowship," said Chairman Reed. "I also would like to acknowledge and thank EXIM's very own White House Fellow, Travis Thul, for the incredible contribution he is making at EXIM as he brings his talents to bear with our Program on China and Transformational Exports (https://www.exim.gov/who-we-serve/external-engagement/program-on-china-and-transformational-exports), one of the most significant efforts in the agency's 86-year history."

Chairman Reed was joined by EXIM Counselor to the Chairman and Senior Vice President for the Program on China and Transformational Exports David Trulio.

"I also want to thank Elizabeth Pinkerton, Director of the President's Commission on White House Fellows, for her leadership and mentorship of the fellows. This program changes lives and builds lifelong connections, and Elizabeth is at its heart," said Reed.



EXIM Chairman Reed and EXIM's White House Fellow Travis Thul

The White House Fellows program (https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/fellows/) was founded in 1964, with the purpose of "[providing] gifted and highly motivated young Americans with some first-hand experience in the process of governing the Nation and a sense of personal involvement in the leadership of society."

ABOUT EXIM:

EXIM is an independent federal agency that promotes and supports American jobs by providing competitive and necessary export credit to support sales of U.S. goods and services to international buyers. A robust EXIM can level the global playing field for U.S. exporters when they compete against foreign companies that receive support from their governments. EXIM also contributes to U.S. economic growth by helping to create and sustain hundreds of thousands of jobs in exporting businesses and their supply chains across the United States. In recent years, approximately 90 percent of the total number of the agency's authorizations has directly supported small businesses. Since 1992, EXIM has generated more than $9 billion for the U.S. Treasury for repayment of U.S. debt.

For more information about EXIM, please visit www.exim.gov (https://www.exim.gov/).

Wireless Charging

Wireless Charging

Presented by Travis Thul - Chair of ANSI C63.30 Standard for Wireless Power Transfer, and Dean at Minnesota State College Southeast

Learn about the underpinning engineering required for wireless power transfer (WPT) technology and including the status of WPT applications, regulatory hurdles, and work items in process with ANSI C63.30 - the standard for wireless power transfer products.

Cost: This is a free event, but registration is required to attend.

Registration: Please submit your registration below by March 12.

Contact: Kathy Barri at Elite Electronic Engineering, Inc. (630-495-9770 x 200)

Speaker Biography

Travis Thul is the Dean of Trade and Technology at Minnesota State College Southeast, serves as a reserve Lieutenant Commander in the United States Coast Guard, and is Chair of the ANSI C63.30 standard for wireless power transfer. He previously worked as the lead engineer for wireless power transfer at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and as an adjunct engineering faculty member at the Community College of Baltimore County, and as an active duty TEMPEST trained C4IT engineering officer at the Coast Guard's Telecommunications & Information Systems Command. Travis is a licensed PE in the State of Minnesota, has an MS from the University of Wisconsin, a BS from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, an AAS from Fox Valley Technical College, and is currently a doctoral candidate at George Washington University. He was awarded the 2016 NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year Award for the FCC and has multiple publications and patents (including the invention of the desktop ramen noodle cooker).

Date and Time

Location

Hosts

Registration

---

winona's twice-weekly newspaper since 1971
winonapost

ARTICLE

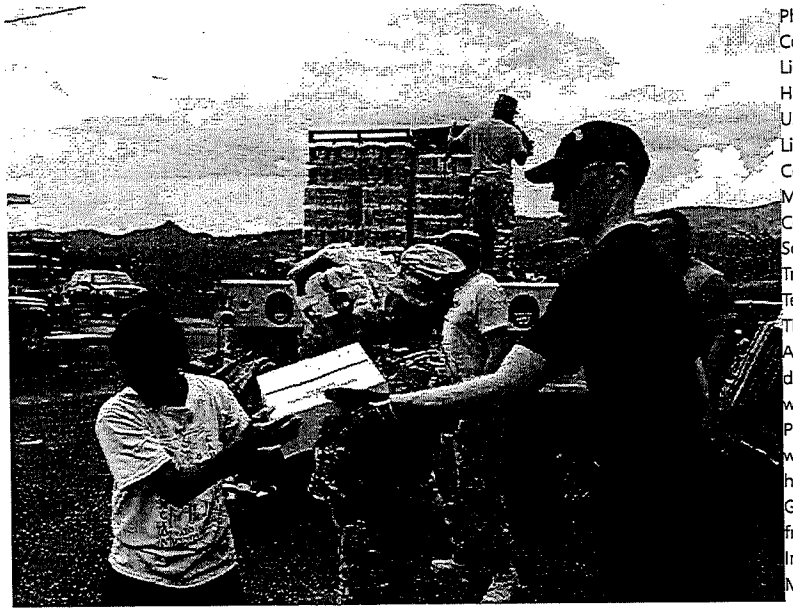


Photo by U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Jake Hauser.
U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander and Minnesota State College - Southeast Dean of Trade and Technology Travis Thul (right) helped Army members distribute food and water to people in Puerto Rico. Thul was deployed to help the Coast Guard itself recover from Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

Winonan deployed to Puerto Rico

(12/26/2017)

by CHRIS ROGERS

It was short notice. Travis Thul got an email from the Coast Guard saying he would be deployed to Puerto Rico. He would get a phone call within 36 hours with the details. Thul asked his boss what to expect. "Bring a sleeping bag and be prepared for anything," he was told.

Within a few days, Thul was on a plane descending into San Juan. It was nighttime, and the city of 350,000 was dead black. There were civilians on the plane, too, mostly Puerto Ricans from the U.S. mainland who had volunteered to help people on the island. One was sitting next to Thul. She was crying. "She was terrified of flying, but she felt compelled to help, so she volunteered with FEMA," Thul said. Even though they lived far away, these people carried a piece of Puerto Rico in their hearts, he explained. Now, the island was in the middle of one of the worst natural disasters in its history. They were doing what they could to help. "To see in these people's eyes this mixture of sadness, fear, and hope — it was pretty intense," Thul said.

Most days, Thul is the dean of trade and technology for Minnesota State College - Southeast (MSC-SE) in Winona, but he serves as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, too. He received the mobilization email on October 19. "This was one month after the hurricane hit, so I thought I was in the clear," Thul said. It turned out that there was — and is — a lot left to do.

On the ground in San Juan, jungle trees were stripped bare of foliage. Roofs were ripped off. Homes lay molding where flood waters had receded. Cell service was virtually non-existent. People needed food and water.

"I kept trying to connect it to my reality in Minnesota," Thul said. "It was like overnight going back to the 1800s." There was no power. Communication was impossible for many people. Everyone's food was spoiling. There were no grocery stores open to get more.

Thul's mission was not to solve all these problems. The primary focus of the Coast Guard team he helped lead was to make emergency repairs to Coast Guard facilities.

In addition to killing at least scores of people, knocking out power and water supplies, and destroying the homes, businesses, and farms of ordinary Puerto Ricans, Hurricane Maria did a number on the Coast Guard itself. Many of the homes of the active duty Coast Guard members were destroyed. Coast Guard offices were flooded. Many of the bases from which the Coast Guard would normally patrol and launch search and rescue operations were heavily damaged when Hurricane Maria slammed into the island on September 20.

"The U.S. Coast Guard cannot stop its mission," Thul said. "We can't just say, 'The buildings are destroyed. Bye.'"

So, Thul said, the crew of 30-40 people under his command set about making emergency, temporary repairs and laying plans for long-term fixes. They patched the roofs of Coast Guard buildings with tarps and two-by-fours. A whole team worked full-time to keep an array of generators running. Other "coasties" demolished molding drywall and tried to clean up flooded buildings. "My job was primarily Coast Guard-facing — getting Coast Guard infrastructure operational so we

could continue our humanitarian operations, our search and rescue operations, our law enforcement operations, our mission," Thul explained.

Reservists from all over the U.S. were called up to relieve the active duty Coast Guard members in Puerto Rico, Thul said. In a makeshift command center at the San Juan civic center, the Army, the Navy, FEMA, the Red Cross, and a host of other groups were all working together to coordinate relief efforts. Thul's own station was a little further away. He operated out of a Coast Guard building that was "80 percent in good shape." He showed a photo of the canvas tent where he and around 20 other service members slept. "I got a tent on the ocean," Thul said, grinning.

Thul is an electrical engineer by training, and he used that education some in Puerto Rico while inspecting a damaged power station, but much of the work he and his team members were asked to do were things they had never done before. Thul explained their directive: "Do any task required to get things done ... How are we going to do it? Figure it out."

"As a reservist, your job is to be a gear," Thul added. "Your job is to be put into the machine and turn as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Puerto Rico is part of the United States. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. Many Coast Guard reservists of Puerto Rican descent from the mainland U.S. volunteered to come, Thul said. They were extremely valuable team members because they were often bilingual and they always gave their all, he stated. "It was absolutely amazing," Thul said.

Puetro Rico's relative isolation made hurricane recovery work more difficult, Thul said. If Minnesota suffered similar devastation, contractors would be driving in from all over the Midwest, from all over the country to get things back online, he stated. Now, imagine Minnesota was an island 1,000 miles from the continental U.S., Thul instructed. Thul's crew and the rest of the relief efforts on the island were supported almost entirely by what could be brought in by boat or plane. "Everything took 10 days by barge," he stated.

There was another issue Thul faced. Some of the people working for him had a hard time just fixing up Coast Guard facilities when so many people on the island were suffering. "I had a lot of young folk who came down. They volunteered to save humanity," Thul said. So Thul and his fellow leaders came up with an option for their team members to directly aid Puerto Ricans. Normally, the Coast Guard members would get one day off per week. Thul and the other leaders worked out an arrangement in which their team members could spend their day off to distributing water and meals with the Salvation Army or other relief groups. Many of them did.

If the destruction in Puerto Rico sounds overwhelming, it was, Thul said. "When you see concrete and power lines laying across the road six weeks after landfall ... You think, what would happen in Minnesota if this happened?" he stated.

Being thanked by Puerto Ricans was overwhelming, too, he said. Thul described one day when his team was helping to pass out drinking water. There were maybe 100 people waiting in line to get water. One bottle fell off the pallet, so Thul picked it up and gave it to a child waiting in line. "I take this bottle of water — and to me its just a bottle of water — and give it to this kid, and all of these people start clapping," he said. "Such thanks — it's a very unique sensation that hits you."

Thul recently returned from San Juan to his office at MSC-SE in Winona. Power hums in the fluorescent lights. His phone rings. Some co-workers pop in to see where he wants to go for lunch. But down in Puerto Rico, service members and relief organizations are still "busting their humps," he said. "They're working hard to make sure these Americans can have

a quality of life that every American should be entitled to," he stated, adding, "We [the Coast Guard] still had an immense task ahead of us, so imagine the local mom and pop shops, imagine the hotels, the farms."

After improving, virus cases spike on Friday
(10/16/2020)

Packer Perspective: The right time for the bye
(10/14/2020)

Viking View: Beware the second act
(10/14/2020)

The 2020 Fine Arts Commission Award winners
(10/14/2020)

October Jazz Jam Rescheduled
(10/14/2020)

VARIETY

Yes, you really can major in bicycles at this Minnesota college

A new degree program in design and fabrication is luring students from around the globe.

By Kevyn Burger Special to the Star Tribune | NOVEMBER 12, 2019 — 3:38PM

When college students meet for the first time, they often ask, "What's your major?"

A group of students at Minnesota State College Southeast (MSC) can now reply, "Bikes."

The technical and community college in Red Wing has enrolled its inaugural class in a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree in Bicycle Design & Fabrication. It's believed to be the first program of its kind in the country.

"This is focused on exactly what I want to do," said Scott Johannen, 20, a Boston area native who moved to Minnesota with two years of liberal arts education under his belt. "I would like to design custom bike frames, maybe have my own company or be a lead welder or designer."

Cycling has exploded in popularity as a leisure activity, a competitive sport and a means of transportation. Now the Red Wing program is helping bike buffs turn their lifestyle into a career.

The program is attracting a surprisingly wide range of students, from teenagers just out of high school to retirees looking for new skills for encore careers.

"These guys eat, sleep and breathe bicycles," said Chase Spaulding, the faculty lead for the program. "Now they're learning how to drive that passion into learning all the components of the machine. They have the why; I'm giving them the how."

Slim, with a close-cropped beard and clad in a hoodie and dark jeans, Spaulding, 29, looks like a guy you'd see pumping along in the bike lane.

With an advanced degree in industrial design and a background designing and building custom motorcycles, Spaulding was recruited from his native North Carolina. Now he bikes the bluffs around Red Wing rather than riding the Blue Ridge Parkway.

He's preparing students for an industry that awaits them.

"Shortly after the school announced we would build this program, a company that makes bike components called and said, 'We want your graduates.' They were asking for them before they exist," Spaulding said.

Students take academic classes on the history and theory of cycle design and physics for bikes, but much of their work is hands-on in the newly constructed bike lab on campus. They work on welding, machining, metal fabrication and 3-D printing, all applied specifically to cycle fabrication.

"They can open their own shops, be entrepreneurs or work in manufacturing," he said. "We're giving them the tool kit."

Two-wheeled ambitions

Some of the students came of age on the seat of their bikes.

Instead of kicking a soccer ball or running cross-country, they cycled. More than 2,000 Minnesota middle and high school athletes now participate in mountain biking programs through the state's High School Cycling League, which began staging events in 2012.

Patrick Welch started competing in Northfield when he was 13; he's fast enough to have qualified for national races and a junior tour in Ireland.

GALLERY 1/11

ANTHONY SOUFFLÉ • ANTHONY.SOUFFLE@STARTRIBUNE.COM

Students, including Will Curtis of Red Wing, left, practiced their welding technique.

ANTHONY SOUFFLE – STAR TRIBUNE

Gallery: Students, including Will Curtis of Red Wing, left, practiced their welding technique.

"By necessity I had to learn how to fix bikes and keep them in race condition," said Welch, now 18. "I planned to go to a four-year college and study computer design or engineering so I could go into bike design, but I'm doing it in one fell swoop here."

Building bicycles will be a third or fourth career for Chris Lucas, who describes himself as a serial entrepreneur. The 62-year-old Californian, who holds an MBA, moved to Red Wing to earn the credentials to establish a new business, a line of recumbent bikes he's designing.

"It's the perfect bike for commuting," said Lucas. "The first bicycles replaced horses; my bikes will get people out of their cars."

In the second year of the program, students will fashion their own capstone project. Lucas is already planning to build a prototype to show to investors.

"I'll have a product they can see and touch and feel — and ride. That's what will sell it," he said.

Passion projects

Minnesota is desperate for workers trained for technical careers. The 2019 State of Manufacturing report by Enterprise Minnesota cited an ongoing worker shortage as the industry's top threat to future growth.

MSC Southeast is meeting the workforce development challenge by retooling its traditional technical curriculum to add out-of-the-box degrees.

For decades, the college has attracted students from all over the world to its one-of-a-kind Guitar Repair and Building course. It also offers diploma programs in band instrument repair and violin repair, with an impressive 100% job placement for graduates.

"We looked at our music programs — they're not only full but they have a backlog of students who want in. It's because the program combines technical skills with an emotional connection to the discipline," said Travis Thul, the college's dean of trade and technology who conceived the bicycle program. "We asked, 'How can we replicate that success?' "

Less than two years ago, Thul set the wheels in motion for the new major, which he sees as an innovative hook to bring Gen Z and nontraditional students into technical careers.

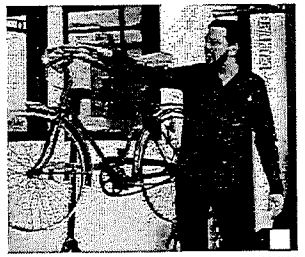
"In our backyard, between the Twin Cities and Madison [Wis.], biking is a billion-dollar industry when you look at companies that make cycles, components or sell bikes," said Thul. "These are real, legitimate local brands but up until now, there wasn't a program building a workforce for the field."

When the program was launched this fall it was filled to its capacity of 18. Prospective students are already lining up for next year.

Working on a passion with plenty of job prospects is only part of the appeal: The affordability of the program is another selling point. The cost for the two-year program, including tuition, fees and supplies, is $11,675.

"I'm psyched for this career," said Welch. "It's like with biking. When you're out on the road, you push yourself, and then what you do is up to you."

Kevyn Burger is a Minneapolis-based freelance broadcaster and writer.



KATRYN CONLIN

Above: Chase Spaulding, an instructor at Minnesota State College Southeast, talked with students about the parts/design aspects of a

Minnesota State College Southeast holds grand opening for machine tool lab

Rachel Mergen Winona Daily News Aug 13, 2019

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place at Minnesota State College Southeast Monday for the advanced manufacturing education hub. Participants in the ribbon cutting include from left to right, Willie Lubahn, Travis Thul, Jerry Papenfuss, and Dr. Larry Lundblad.

Craig Johnson, Winona Daily News

When students start the fall semester at Minnesota State College Southeast Aug. 26, they will be able to expand their knowledge in the new CNC Precision Machine Tool laboratory.

The community gathered Monday to celebrate the grand opening of the new lab with a ribbon cutting and celebration. The project is only the first phase of the college's Advanced Manufacturing Infrastructure Initiative. Almost $600,000 has been raised so far.

According to the college, the event was set to "acknowledge the efforts of local business, community advocates, and college leadership to overhaul the college's advanced manufacturing education capabilities and its ability to provide state-of-the-art equipment for years to come."

After realizing the need for new equipment for the advanced manufacturing program, longtime supporters of the college Jerry and Pat Papenfuss decided to help support the project.

"Winona has more manufacturing for the size of the town than almost any city in the whole United States. People just don't realize that. So they need a lot of workers," Jerry said, explaining that the students need to be able to use a computer, be good at math and know how the machines available in the lab work. "That's why this training is so important, because it provides workers."

Interim President Larry Lundblad stated, "This program really supports manufacturing in Winona. Winona is really known for its manufacturing. So this is getting the equipment to train the students so they can go right into the industry."

6 winter activities to try in Colorado that skiing

READ MORE »

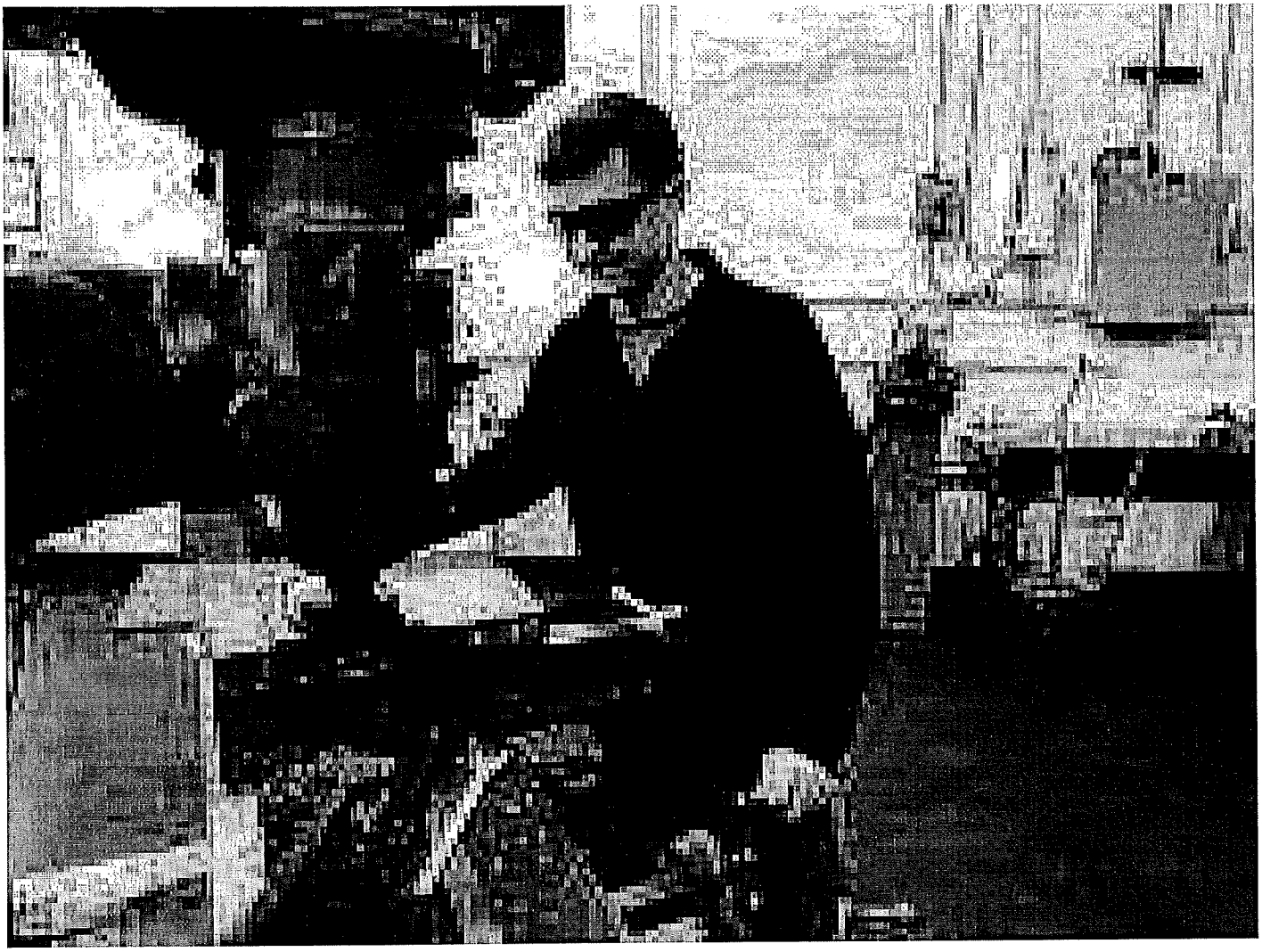
"This program is meant to help underpin our really robust manufacturing and engineering economy in the upper Mississippi river region, so this laboratory, along with the integration with our industry partners and the holistic pipelines from secondary to post-secondary to industry, are what we believe to be the building blocks to a successful and more robust Winona economy," Travis Thul, dean of trade and technology, noted about the advanced manufacturing program and the initiative.

"We believe the draw to students is not just hands-on, state-of-the-art equipment that can get them employed. … But also the integration with industry, internship opportunities and the pipelines that allow students as early as their sophomore year in high school to start taking these engineering and manufacturing that will lead them to careers from machinists to technicians on to engineering," Thul said.

Sponsors of the initiative include Benchmark, DCM Tech, Fastenal, Merchants Bank, Miller Ingenuity, Jerry and Pat Papenfuss, Peerless, PlastiCert Inc., RTP, Slaggie Family Foundation, Stone Machinery CNC Machine Tools, Thern, WNB Financial, Watlow and Winona Area Industrial Development Association.

National Science Foundation grant will help Minnesota State College Southeast develop advanced manufacturing education hub (copy)

For the Houston County News Jun 24, 2019



As a high school student from La Crescent, Garrett Fields earned a certificate in Prototype Engineering in 2019.

Contributed

Minnesota State College Southeast announced Monday the award of a $441,952 grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant, guaranteed for three years, will build on the success that MSC Southeast has already had in creating high school partnerships that provide college credits, credentials, and internships in advanced manufacturing to students throughout southeast Minnesota.

Through the project, entitled "Establishing a Rural Advanced Manufacturing Education Hub in the Upper Mississippi River Basin," Minnesota State College Southeast, regional K-12 schools, industry partners, and four-year universities will collaborate to develop a high school STEM Academy Hub model in southeastern Minnesota and nearby western Wisconsin.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Minnesota State College Southeast to make an impact in our region," said Larry Lundblad, interim president of MSC Southeast. "Hundreds of high school students will benefit from increased access to high-technology education."

Regional manufacturers will serve in an advisory capacity, and companies will provide work experience opportunities for participating students.

"Our corporate partners will benefit from a robust pathway from high school to their companies, and our communities will benefit from better integrated education and industry," said MSC Southeast dean of trade and technology Travis Thul.

Here's what happened on the campaign trail we... »

"The hub model will help us give students hands-on exposure and college credit before they even graduate from high school," said Willie Lubahn, manufacturing trainer and recruiter at Fastenal Manufacturing in Winona. "We need a new generation of workers with high level skills in robotics, mathematics, and computers. This will help create a pipeline from high school to industry."

To date, MSC Southeast has partnered with nearly a dozen high schools within driving distance of the Winona campus — including Wabasha, La Crescent, Rushford, Caledonia, Winona and into Wisconsin — to offer students in grades 10-12 the opportunity to complete a 13-credit certificate in Prototype Engineering, which students earn concurrently with their high school diploma.

In order to ensure that students who live beyond commuting distance to Winona have the same opportunities, MSC Southeast worked with high schools in Cannon Falls and Chatfield to develop the National Science Foundation grant, which will build out technical hubs in their communities.

Viewpoint: MSC Southeast is building a destination campus for Industrial Craftsmanship and an Industrial Community

By Larry Lundblad and Travis M. Thul, Minnesota State College Southeast Over the last 36 months, Minnesota State College Southeast has been investing heavily in growing its campus in Red Wing through community integration and novel initiatives th...
Written By: Submitted | Jun 5th 2019 - 11am.

By Larry Lundblad and Travis M. Thul, Minnesota State College Southeast

Over the last 36 months, Minnesota State College Southeast has been investing heavily in growing its campus in Red Wing through community integration and novel initiatives that include specialized customized training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and unique high-tech destination majors. These initiatives are leveraging the unique threads of the local community and weaving them into educational opportunities that span the nation and the globe.

The college is joining with other community and business partners to further develop Red Wing as an industrial hub for southeastern Minnesota. Red Wing manufacturers produce a diverse array of products including roller skates, nuclear fuel handlers, and shoes that require a variety of technical specialists who can attend to the many processes required to produce the final product.

The college is undertaking a customized training initiative to address the training needs of skilled professionals through a partnership with UL (formally Underwriters Laboratory) to bring world class training directly to Red Wing. This training, taught by UL's own professional engineers, is available to Red Wing technicians, engineers, and electricians, as well as professionals from across the three state region. Out of town participants will stay in Red Wing hotels and eat at Red Wing restaurants as they gain the skills required for 21st century manufacturing (1).

Because of its rich history of industry, the Red Wing community encourages entrepreneurship. To provide a place for entrepreneurs to meet and create, MSC Southeast partnered with Red Wing Ignite and the Red Wing Makers to launch the first Makerspace in southeastern Minnesota. This community laboratory, including wood,

https://www.rivertowns.net/opinion/4621492-viewpoint-msc-southeast-building-destination-campus-industrial-craftsmanship

metalworking, and plastics engineering resources, provides a space for would-be entrepreneurs to dream big.

With minimal overhead costs and using repurposed lab equipment, MSC Southeast and our community partners are able create a place at the college that welcomes makers of all ages and capabilities with minimal costs. (2).

Understanding that MSC Southeast's mission exceeds serving current professionals and weekend makers, we are also working diligently to train the next generation of technologists. Knowing that generation Z will resonate with Red Wing's outdoor appeal, high technology manufacturing, and artistic flare, MSC Southeast launched the world's first Associate of Applied Science in Bicycle Design & Fabrication. This mechanical engineering technology curriculum, wrapped around the application of bikes and their components, has drawn prospective students from as far afield as Singapore, Hong Kong, and Columbia; has brought a brand new faculty member (Mr. Chase Spaulding) from North Carolina; and has enhanced Red Wing's status as a cycling epicenter. This program, which now has a wait list, would not be possible without the support of local community members such as Mayor Sean Dowse, Mr. Mike Ford, and Mr. Tom Wolner (3).

While these successes over the last 36 months are not all inclusive, we believe they underscore MSC Southeast 's goals to be a partner in building a destination community for industry and individuals, serve our local employers, and grow a one-of-a-kind campus that specializes in industrial craftsmanship. Together with our community partners, we can continue to make Red Wing a magnet for the creative, the entrepreneurial, and the motivated; truly a place for endless career opportunities and a lifetime of learning. Just wait for what is yet to come!

1. For information regarding UL training at MSC Southeast, please contact Ms. Katy Hardyman-Morem - khardyman@southeastmn.edu

2. For information regarding The Makerspace at MSC Southeast, please contact Ms. Neela Molgaard - neela@redwingignite.org

3. For information regarding the Bicycle Design & Fabrication degrees, please contact Mr. Chase Spaulding - chase.spaulding@southeastmn.edu

Travis Thul: MSC Southeast partnership with Habitat for Humanity has exceeded expectations

May 26, 2019

In early 2018, Minnesota State College Southeast faced a dilemma: how to partner with the community to address a workforce housing shortage while growing enrollment in mission critical trades programming. The answer was the Construction Technology program and integration of curriculum with Winona's Habitat for Humanity.

In retrospect, this partnership is intuitive and necessary to build not only homes, but a community of tradespeople, volunteers, and goodwill. However, in 2018, this reality seemed distant. It was only due to the tenacity and big thinking of HFH's leadership, combined with the vigor of college faculty, that the goals so far have exceeded all expectations. Specifically, if not for the integration of HFH's John Corcoran into MSCS's Construction Technology program and his willingness to make HFH's worksite a functional classroom, the gains thus far would have not been captured.

Highlights include:

• MSCS students, working under faculty member Jon Powell and in conjunction with Mr. John Corcoran, constructing HFH's new 2,800 sqft ReStore processing room addition; formally a hole in the ground.

• Expansion of construction education through daily and direct interaction with HFH's professional craftsmen and volunteers, resulting in breadth and depth of professional practice.

• Student labor, valued at more than $460,000, has helped build out HFH's critical mission to Winona, while providing education which grows the mind and the soul.

In addition to these service learning metrics, the Construction Technology program has seen enrollment surpass all expectations, with 16 students in the first cohort. Looking to 2020, classes are expected to be at or near capacity. Many of these students, pursuing diplomas and AAS degrees, are already working in the local industry and helping to ensure Winona continues to be a great place to live, work, and thrive.

In closing, if not for the visionary leadership of Habitat's Amanda Hedlund and the unyielding support from John Corcoran, the seeds of this initiative would not yet have sprouted. Their efforts, combined with faculty member Jon Powell's visionary leadership, have set an example for communities across the state to emulate.

GIANT-RAD FÜR TOM DUMOULIN

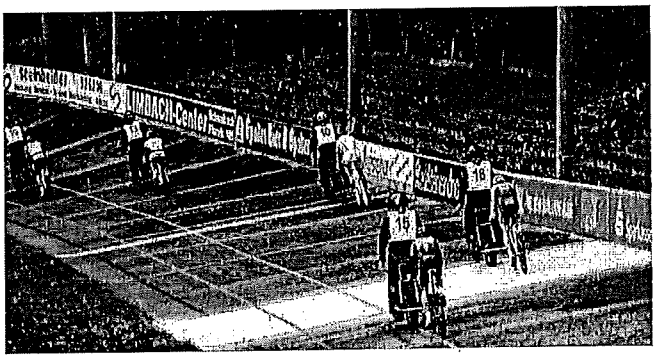
ABSCHIEDSGESCHENK

Da nach fünf Jahren die Zusammenarbeit von Giant mit dem Profiteam Sunweb endete – das Team Sunweb wird in dieser Saison auf Rädern von Cervélo unterwegs sein –, hatte sich der taiwanische Radhersteller ein besonderes Abschiedsgeschenk für Sunweb-Kapitän Tom Dumoulin ausgedacht: ein superleichtes Giant TCR im Vincent-Van-Gogh-Design, das zugleich auch als Hochzeitsgeschenk für Dumoulin diente. Der 28-jährige Niederländer hatte im Oktober seine Freundin Thanee van Hulst geheiratet. In der Aero-Version kann das Van-Gogh-Rad online bestellt werden, der Kaufpreis beträgt stolze 19.500 Euro.

BUNDESSTÜTZPUNKT

NEUE RADRENNBAHN IN NÜRNBERG

In Nürnberg ist ein neues Velodrom geplant, das spätestens 2021 eröffnet werden soll. Es soll die bisherige offene Radrennbahn am Reichelsdorfer Keller ersetzen, die seit 1904 existiert. Die neue Halle entsteht im Stadtteil Langwasser und soll einen Bundesstützpunkt Radsport und ein bayerisches Landesleistungszentrum beheimaten. Steherrennen mit Elektromotorrädern sind ebenfalls geplant. Neben einer 250 Meter langen Holzbahn sind Fitness- und Seminarräume geplant sowie Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten für Sportler. Der Verkauf des Grundstücks mit der alten Bahn erleichtert die Finanzierung des 20-Millionen-Euro-Projekts. Das neue Grundstück gehört dem Freistaat Bayern.



Die Radrennbahn am Reichelsdorfer Keller ist Geschichte

INTERVIEW

» DAS FAHRRAD ERFORDERT DURCHDACHTE INGENIEURSARBEIT «

THUL TRAVIS

Das US-amerikanische Minnesota State College bietet 2019 erstmals den Studiengang „Bicycle Design & Production" an. TOUR hat bei Thul Travis, dem Erfinder des Programms, nachgefragt, was genau man dabei lernt

INTERVIEW
Kristian Bauer

TOUR Warum bieten Sie ein Fahrradstudium an?
TRAVIS Wir sind genau an der Grenze von Minnesota und Wisconsin, in einer der Regionen mit der größten Dichte an Produktion und Entwicklung in den USA. Entsprechend sind hier auch die großen Firmen der Fahrradindustrie angesiedelt, wie Park Tool, HED Cycle und Trek, die einen großen Bedarf an gut ausgebildeten Mitarbeitern haben. Und wir bieten ein Studium, das die wichtigsten Entwicklungs- und Technologie-Kompetenzen rund um das Fahrrad vermittelt. Das Fahrrad erfordert durchdachte Ingenieursarbeit, hat eine positive Ausstrahlung und ist jedem vertraut, der mal einen Fuß aufs Pedal gesetzt hat.

Was werden die Studenten genau lernen?
Unser Lehrplan umfasst Stahl, Aluminium und Verbundstoffe – hoffentlich können wir auch Titan einbeziehen. Das Abschlussprojekt ist sehr offen. Wir wollen ihnen die Fähigkeiten beibringen, zum Beispiel einen Aluminium-Rahmen zu bauen, einen Radschuh oder ein Rad für Körperbehinderte. Kreative Projekte werden wir besonders fördern.

Gibt es für Ihre Studenten genug Stellen in den USA?
Auf jeden Fall. Bei uns sind nicht nur die großen Radfirmen, die ich bereits genannt habe, sondern auch viele kleine Custom Bike Shops. Und wir werden auch alle unterstützen, die ein eigenes Unternehmen gründen wollen. Wir haben sogar eine eigene Werkstatt, die Jungunternehmer benutzen können.

Wie ist die Resonanz auf das neue Studium?
Unglaublich! Wir haben viele Rückmeldungen aus der Fahrradindustrie bekommen, und es haben sich Menschen aus der ganzen Welt gemeldet, die Interesse an dem Studium haben. Wir haben bereits 30 Studienplatz-Bewerbungen – darunter auch welche aus Kolumbien, Hongkong und Singapur. Die Nachfrage war so groß, dass wir gleich eine neue Stelle für den Unterricht ausgeschrieben haben.

Fotos: Straub, privat, vincentvangoghbike.com

MSC Southeast cyber program named first in nation

Taylor Nachtigal, tnachtigal@postbulletin.com Jan 9, 2018

WINONA — Minnesota State College Southeast's Cyber & Information Security program was named first in the nation by GreatValueCollege.com, according to 2018 rankings announced by the website last week.

The community and technical college, with locations in Red Wing and Winona, offers an associate of applied science degree in cyber and information security. This program incorporates networking, cyber security, forensics, and criminal justice, "to prepare students for employment in a very high demand profession," according to the college.

An associate degree in the field can be "a great foot in the door to an IT career or the budget-minded beginnings of a bachelor's degree in the tech industry," according to GreatValueCollege.com

Rankings are based on tuition value, relevancy of curriculum to demands in the field and a low student-to-faculty ratio.

"Our Cyber Security team members, including military, academic, and private sector professionals, have worked tirelessly to develop this state-of-the-art program," said Travis Thul, MSC Southeast's dean of trade and technology. "We are so very proud of the quality degree they've built!"

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST

Rising Stars: Travis Thul

From the 2017 Rising Stars: 24 community leaders in the 7 Rivers Region series

Ryan Stotts For River Valley Media Oct 17, 2017

Travis Thul is a dean at Minnesota State College Southeast.

Kendahl Schlueter, River Valley Media

Travis Thul sees a dean as the grease in the wheels of academia.

If grease is roughly equivalent to dynamism, then Thul has more than enough to spare. As dean of Trade and Technology and Business and Transportation at Minnesota State College Southeast, Thul admits it's the hardest he's ever worked on anything in his life.

"Within a single month, I can work with an Ethiopian refugee to find employment while retooling his skills in one of our engineering technology programs," Thul said. "I can drive a first-generation college student back to his home because he lacks transportation, and I can

work with a single mother to ensure she has financial aid and a flexible academic schedule. Although these gestures, and my role, are only a small part in the collegiate orchestra which will be the backdrop of those students' successes, I will always enjoy knowing that I played my small part in getting them there."

That's pretty impressive, especially when you consider Thul's resume. Thul graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering technology from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, also earning a Master of Science in electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Thul was also the engineering technology program coordinator at the Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, Md., but he didn't stop there – he went on to become an electronics engineer at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., in charge of research on wireless power transfer. And, he's a Coast Guard veteran, where he serves as lieutenant commander in the reserves. His awards are voluminous.

"Travis Thul is an innovative leader who is driving positive change both in the college and in the district we serve. He has an impressive resume, a positive, can-do attitude and boundless energy," said Dr. Leslie Bleskachek, Southeast's vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services, who nominated Thul for Rising Stars Under 40.

Within his first year at Minnesota State Southeast, Bleskachek said, Thul sourced more than $500,000 in equipment donations, built a state-of-the-art automation lab using only grant dollars, and led the renovation of a Maker Space and new welding lab. He developed a partnership with UL to bring custom regulatory training to southeast Minnesota.

He also launched a certificate in prototype engineering as a pathway for high school juniors to enter collegiate technical education, attracting nearly two dozen applicants from more than a half-dozen high schools for the pilot cohort.

He also developed formal articulation agreements with Milwaukee School of Engineering and Winona State University to create associate to BS degree transfer pathways. Inspired by his knowledge and enthusiasm, Southeast's faculty worked closely with the partner universities to align curriculum for transferability. As a result, Southeast students who earn an Electrical Engineering Technology associate will now be able to transfer directly to an engineering bachelor's degree at MSOE or WSU. This is Southeast's first engineering transfer degree program.

Thul takes pride in his work as dean at Southeast, but that's because every day he sees the enormous impact he's able to have on so many lives.

"I am in a position to link students, including the most vulnerable, to educational and career opportunities which may initially appear out of reach," Thul said. "This provides a conduit for students to achieve their potential, as well as serves our industrial partners by providing a pipeline to highly skilled personnel resources. It is truly a position which facilitates critical and career altering services to both our personal and industrial community members."

He's also an inventor and innovator (just ask him about his ramen noodle cooker, which is an entire story of its own). His undeniable passion and commitment to service isn't something he takes lightly.

"I believe it a truism that our youth forever shapes our perspective on life, even throughout adulthood," Thul said.

"Growing up in a, for lack of a better term, dynamically challenging environment, there were very few places to find mentorship and guidance on education and personal direction. In such cases, and in my case, it often falls to the educators to not only teach these students, but to help them understand the world beyond their view.

"Knowing the profound impact that those faculty and administrators had on my personal and professional growth during such a pivotal and uncertain time in my life, I take extreme pride knowing that I have an opportunity to pay their goodwill forward to the next generation."

ACADEMICS 06.01.2017

MSOE partners with MN State Colleges SE on transfer agreement

Milwaukee School of Engineering and Minnesota State College Southeast announced the creation of a new transfer agreement. Graduates of MSCS's AAS in Electrical Engineering Technology (EET) program can seamlessly transfer their associate degree credits to MSOE and pursue a baccalaureate degree in electrical engineering.

"Our new agreement with Minnesota State College Southeast gives students with an associate degree in electrical engineering technology the opportunity to transfer efficiently into the BSEE program at MSOE in their career path to electrical engineering," said Dr. Robert Strangeway, MSOE professor and AAS-EET to BSEE transfer track coordinator. "Graduates of our BSEE program go on to lead successful careers. Last year's graduates enjoyed a 100 percent placement rate and an average starting salary of $64,172."

"MSCS is honored to work with MSOE to bring this opportunity to our students and community. We believe MSOE's long history of forward-looking engineering curriculum coupled with MSCS's core competencies in applied technology education will result in engineering graduates able to serve across our robust engineering and manufacturing industries," said Travis Thul, MSCS dean of trade and technology. "We look forward to these graduates demonstrating what is possible when great institutions collaborate towards the betterment of our students, schools, and employers."

This new agreement is a great opportunity for students to continue their education. MSCS AAS EET graduates will have the mathematical and analytical background to continue pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree at MSOE. A bachelor's degree further enhances the marketability of the graduate and opens up career opportunities as an electrical designer, electrical engineer, electronics engineer, avionics engineer, test design engineer and more.

MSOE has several transfer agreements with many other educational institutions. This is the first agreement between MSOE and MSCS, and it was prompted by Thul, who is an MSOE alumnus. He personally understands the value in continuing one's education after obtaining an associate degree—he earned his Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Fox Valley Technical College and transferred to MSOE to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree.

Minnesota State College Southeast is a two-year technical and community college that prepares students for a lifetime of learning by providing education for employment, skill enhancement, retraining, and transfer, to meet the needs of students and the community. The Winona campus opened in 1949, merging with the Red Wing campus in 1992 and updating its name to Minnesota State College Southeast in 2016 with the change of mission to offer both technical training and the associate of arts degree. Minnesota State College Southeast is a member of Minnesota State.

For more information about MSOE's Electrical Engineering AAS-EET to BSEE Transfer Plan contact Judy Prest, MSOE assistant director of transfer admissions, at (800) 332-6763.

Minnesota State College Southeast receives 10 tons of high-quality metal

Kyle Farris Feb 17, 2017

WINONA, Minn. — Minnesota State College Southeast received more than 20,000 pounds of high-quality metal at no cost on Thursday — the school's latest trove of hardware discarded by a Kentucky defense firm.

Travis Thul, dean of trade and technology at Southeast, has used his connections with Lockheed Martin Corp. to bring in tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment and materials in the past several months.

Thursday's shipment of aircraft-grade aluminum, titanium and steel — the first of two such loads — is valued at more than $100,000. Fastenal Co. volunteered to haul both shipments from Lexington to Winona.

"If you call enough people, eventually someone is willing to give you stuff," said Thul, who has also secured electronic and automotive equipment in the past several months.

"Most of the metal is half sheets or full sheets," he said. "It's not scrap. It's not junk. We're saving the taxpayers of Minnesota whatever it is we're saving them, and we're getting this high-buck metal delivered to us on a gold plate."

The aluminum and steel will be used in welding, auto body and other classes at Southeast's campuses in Winona and Red Wing. The titanium will be used by Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount.

Thul estimated the two truckloads of metal will meet the three campuses' needs for the next five years.

Because all of this hardware was owned by the U.S. Department of Defense and paid for by taxpayers, Lockheed Martin had the choice of either throwing it away or giving it to an educational institution.

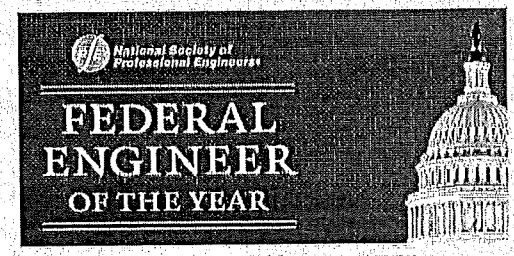
Thul said he is glad his school is the consistent beneficiary of these windfalls. Next, he's hoping to procure a set of computers that could be used in engineering and graphic design classes at Southeast.

But, he said, there's always the issue of transporting the stuff.

Fastenal has now brought a few shipments to Southeast and plans to be a partner in the future.

"It's a great combination of a local company and a community college," said Jeff Peplinski, transportation manager for the Midwest at Fastenal. He said the company, like the school, benefits when students have access to the best equipment.

"Southeast gives us the perfect candidates to come on board with the company," he said. "I can't tell you how many Southeast graduates I have working in Winona."



2016 FEYA Agency Winners

Thomas Adams, P.E.
U.S. Air Force
Air Force Civil Engineer Center

MAJ Josh Aldred, Ph.D., P.E.*
U.S. Air Force
8th Civil Engineer Squadron

LCDR Peter Bosma, P.E.
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard

David Braidich, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Hunstville Center

Shanon Chader, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Great Lakes & Ohio River

Benton Ching, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Pacific Ocean

CDR Craig Clutts, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Marina Connors, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Calvin Creech, Ph.D., P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
South Atlantic

CDR Alexander Dailey, P.E.
U.S. Department of
Health & Human Services
Indian Health Service

Christopher Elam, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Europe

William Fagan, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Surface Warfare Center,
Carderock Division

Jon Fripp, P.E.*
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stacy Froelich, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Cheryl Fromme, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
North Atlantic

Robert Frye, P.E.*
Tennessee Valley Authority

Michael Guerin, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
South Pacific

Christopher Hansen, E.I.T.
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Johnson Space Center

LTC Patrick Hogeboom, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Transatlantic Division/Afghanistan

Ingrid Howard, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Transatlantic

Bonnie Klamerus, P.E.
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Jon Krause, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Southwestern

Thomas North, P.E.*
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Northwestern

Timothy Paulus, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Mississippi Valley

Eric Petran, E.I.T.
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Sea Systems Command

Anthony Ponko, P.E.
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Terri McCord Regin, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

John Sammarco, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health &
Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention

Linda Sue Schwarz, P.E.
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Michael Sierman
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Undersea Warfare Center,
Keyport Division

LCDR Samantha Spindel, Ph.D.
U.S. Department of Health &
Human Services
Food & Drug Administration

Travis Thul, P.E.
U.S. Federal Communications
Commission

Dennis Tierney, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Undersea Warfare Center,
Newport Division

Mick Wasco, P.E.
U.S. Department of the Navy
U.S. Marine Corps

* Top Ten Finalists