Rochester/ZED Consortium Annual Report

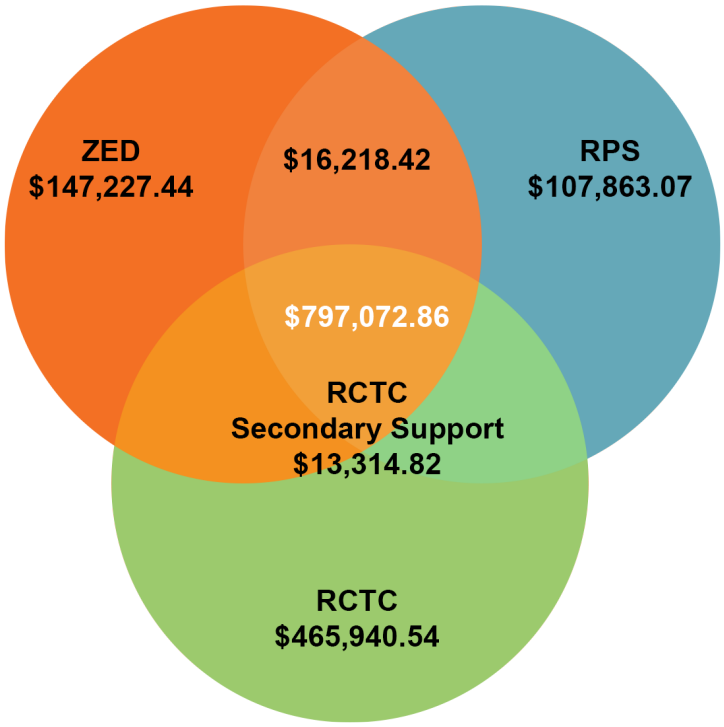
2023-2024

BUDGET

Financial Update

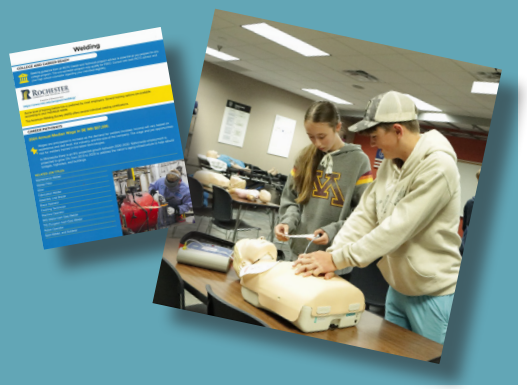
We started with a budget of $741,958.34 and in March 2024 we received an additional $72,669.74 of reallocation funding. This brings the consortium's total budget to $814,628.08 for FY24.

FY24 Total Consortium Dollars Spent



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CONTACTS

The Perkins Team

ROCHESTER/ZED



Heather Hogen
hehogen@rochesterschools.org



Jeannie Meidlinger
jeannie.meidlinger@rctc.edu



Jami Schwickerath
jschwickerath@ssc.coop

Rochester/ZED Consortium Schools:
Blooming Prairie
Byron
Hayfield
Kasson-Mantorville
Pine Island
Rochester
Stewartville
Triton
Rochester Community & Technical College
ZED ALC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conference Take-Away Implemented: Career Brochures

The first year our consortium attended ACTE Vision as a group, these brochures were highlighted in a national session. Each brochure is a one-page document packed with valuable information to help students navigate their career paths. They are designed for students in seventh through tenth grade, guiding them as they explore their post-high school options.



On one side, the brochures highlight potential skills students may have, such as being enterprising or hands-on. They also cover the educational requirements for various careers, like taking Algebra II or Anatomy and Physiology, and outlines the skills needed for specific jobs, such as assisting patients to a room or drawing blood. The reverse side of the brochures detail the post-secondary education requirements, potential job opportunities once those are met, and expected earnings in the field. Additionally, data on job earnings and starting wages is included.

We've found these brochures to be an excellent resource for students, families, and counselors when discussing career options. Our goal is to ensure students are well-informed about their choices, considering more than just potential earnings. When we considered printing these brochures, we focused on the pathways available in our consortium, the region's job demands, and the feasibility of obtaining the necessary educational qualifications for those jobs in our area. We decided to print ten pathways that are most relevant and current for our consortium. These brochures are available whenever you need them, so please reach out to your Perkins Coordinator to access them.

The program brochure pathways include:

Automotive Tech Welding
Construction
CTE Teacher
Hospitality Manager
Peace Officer
Practical Nursing
Software Developers
Surg Tech
Vet Tech
Welding

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Transforming Educators: Elevating Skills Through PD

Articulated College Credit meetings were held to support five different pathways, focusing on updating agreements, improving programs of study, and strengthening teacher and faculty relationships across the region. Additionally, two separate high school trainings were conducted for local administrators and teachers to support the use and implementation of articulation within their school districts.

- School Counselor Training
- May 17th, P-File Training for Administrators and Business Managers
- FCS Regional Meetings
- October 23, 2023
- May 3, 2024
- Externships
- National Conference learning best practices to bring back to the consortium
- Three Perkins Leaders, one staff and one faculty member attended ACTE Vision Conference

The Perkins leaders attended several meetings throughout the year, guided by the Southeast Service Cooperative, as part of a new collaboration aimed at supporting Regional Career-Connected Learning.

Professional development for instructors is also important and was a focus area of our plan. Instructors from Rochester Public Schools were able to participate in several local and state-level professional development events such as the MAAE Summer Conference, a two-day welding workshop in Alexandria, the Importance of Global Workforce Skills at the University of Minnesota, the MAAE Ag Tech Conference, FACS to the Max, the MN FCS Conference and the Foundations of Hospitality and Tourism, Jeffers Workshop, and the American Parkinson's Disease Association Training.

ACADEMIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Career Exploration Events



After several years of limited field trip experiences being offered due to COVID and transportation constraints, the 23-24 year allowed many to participate in career exploration focused field trips. Some of the highlights included, the STEAM Summit, Construct Tomorrow, Manufacturing Month tours, tours of the Target Center and US Bank Stadium, Discover Health Care/ HOSA Competition, the Future*Forward* Career, College and Job Fair, Jobs HQ Job Fair, BPA State Conference, SE MN Welding Competition, and numerous tours of local businesses and industry partners.



Hospitality field trip

ACADEMIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Middle School Summer Camp

Year two of the four-day career exploration camp brought approximately 115 7th and 8th graders to the Heintz Center and CTECH building on the RCTC campus. Students preselected a pathway from agriculture (including components of transportation, construction, and manufacturing), culinary and hospitality, information technology, health sciences, or public and emergency services. Each pathway provided students with hands-on, engaging activities connected to a variety of careers available in the pathway. Students also had the opportunity to hear directly from professionals currently working in the field to learn in more detail what the job entails.



The Middle School Career Academy was fortunate to have many returning industry partners such as OMC, Rochester Fire Department, IT Center of Excellence, Agriculture Center of Excellence, RCTC faculty, and the Federal Medical Center. The Academy was thrilled to welcome new industry partners Mayo Clinic, Minnesota StateTransportation Center of Excellence, DNR, Tilson's Auto Repair, Hospitality Minnesota and Hilton Rochester to name a few.

Students and parents overwhelmingly shared positive feedback of the experience, many requesting that we expand the amount of time dedicated to the Academy. Highlights for students included the Pit Stop Challenge at the Transportation Center for Excellence trailer where students went head-to-head to see who could change a tire the fastest, touring the Hilton and seeing the suite where royalty and celebrities including LeBron James stay, decorating a pineapple cake, and participating in health care simulations such as laparoscopic surgery and applying casts.

Plans are already beginning for the next Middle School Career Academy. Stay tuned for "save the date" information.







EQUITY & ACCESS

Pathway Creation

The ZED ALC benefited significantly from the reallocation of Perkins funding this year. Previously identified as an area in need due to solid programs lacking necessary equipment, the ALC has made considerable progress. Over the past year, Perkins funding supported the development of an AFNR pathway and an FCS pathway at ZED. Students in these programs can now conduct labs and experiments using equipment purchased with the reallocated funds.

The ALC was a strategic choice for these funds, as it serves multiple schools within the ZED region, with several schools sending students to these programs. In our commitment to access and equity, we aim to ensure that students at the ALC receive the same quality of education they would in their home districts. Building these two programs allows students to have the same level of programming they would experience at their home schools.
For example, FCS instructor MaKayla Manning is an excellent cook, often making delicious cookies and pastries. To support her and the students, a warming oven was purchased to keep these treats warm. And speaking from experience, you won't want to miss trying one of her cookies! Additionally, the Ag program was able to acquire new curriculum materials, including labs where students can engage in hands-on activities like building fishing poles and tying knots.

EQUITY & ACCESS

Male of Color Scholars Initiative (MOCSI)

In the inaugural year of the Male of Color Scholars Initiative (MOCSI) at RCTC, we successfully recruited 36 participants and paired them with five dedicated volunteer mentors. While engagement levels varied, our mentors conducted 21 one-on-one sessions, offering personalized support to each mentee. We are proud to celebrate the graduation of five MOCSI students from RCTC during this first year! With the support of Perkins, we achieved significant milestones for our participants. Below are some highlights from MOCSI for fiscal year 2024.







The males in MOCSI had a persistence rate that is 6% higher than all males of color at the college. It is great to see that MOCSI members' average GPA rose significantly (by .44) when compared to Fall 23 to Spring 24 (2.07 average GPA). It is also good to see that all males of colors' average GPA rose from 2.48 to 2.73 (an increase of 0.25).

CTE Spanish audio ad

The RCTC CTE Spanish ad was placed on Spotify and ran from February 1 to May 24, 2024. It generated 19,114 impressions, reached 2,092 individuals, garnered 21 clicks, and had a click-through rate (CTR) of 0.11%. All of this was accomplished with a budget of only $127.80. We expanded our reach by targeting 109 zip codes, additional music genres, and a broader age demographic.

ACADEMIC AREAS OF FOCUS

10 Programs of Study Supported FY24

State Perkins staff allow consortia to fund up to ten programs of study (per Perkins approval) per year. These are the ten programs determined through the CLNA (Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment) process.

1. Health Science- Therapeutic Science
2. Engineering Manufacturing Technology- Manufacturing- Production (Welding)
3. Business Management Administration- Restaurants Food and Beverage Services- Culinary Arts
4. AFNR- Animal Systems
5. AFNR- Agribusiness Systems
6. Human Services- Education and Training- Teaching/ Training
7. Engineering Manufacturing Technology- Construction
8. Human Services- Law Enforcement Services
9. Engineering Manufacturing Technology- Auto Technician
10. Arts Communication and Information Systems- Network Systems

ACADEMIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Purchases Made in 2023-2024

- Perkins funding has helped the Automotive Technician Program stay up-to-date with the latest technology. With the Consulab products we've been able to purchase, our program is now better equipped to produce highly skilled technicians. Students are more prepared to tackle the ever-evolving transportation industry.
- Pi 5 Starter kits were purchased for the Cyber Security Program at RCTC, allowing students to gain hands-on experience with Linux. For their final projects, students create practical applications, such as game simulators or network filters, to demonstrate their ability to work with the operating system.
- Feline and canine simulators were purchased for the Vet Tech I & II classes at CTECH, while baby simulators were acquired for John Marshall High School's Child & Human Development class.
- To make culinary labs accessible to all students, kitchen equipment check-out kits were provided for MNSynch online school's culinary classes.
- Meat cut simulators, including lamb and chicken, were purchased for the agriculture courses at Stewartville High School.
- Additionally, Hayfield received a smoker and grill for their outdoor FCS classroom, as well as a bovine insemination simulator, which will be shared among the ZED AFNR programs.



ACADEMIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Z Space

In the spring of 2024, we were excited to pilot the Z Space units in several innovative ways. Our Admissions staff member has been using a unit during recruitment efforts, allowing prospective students not only to learn about CTE but also to experience it firsthand at college fairs or in a counselor's office.

Teachers also piloted the units in the classroom, with a notable highlight at Willow Creek Middle School, where the instructor of the career course shared that the 'students thought it was really cool.' This provided a unique opportunity for students to engage with cutting-edge technology while exploring career pathways.

At the Educator Forum held in February at the Southeast Service Cooperative, area educators had the chance to test the technology. The feedback gathered from this event helped guide which applications to pilot during the 2024-25 school year.

BOARD CHANGES AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Governance Update

In the second year of our newly formed Governance Board, we continued to listen to our members and make necessary adjustments.

We revised membership and updated language in our bylaws to better meet the needs of the consortium. At the request of the board, we also began providing quarterly budget reports to enhance transparency regarding consortium funds.

DRIVING OUR WORK

Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment

The FY25-26 two-year plan needs were identified through months of research and meetings as part of the comprehensive local needs assessment, focusing on employment gaps in the Rochester/ZED region. Consortium school districts, industry partners, and the Mayo Clinic expansion project were key contributors.

A key community need is the new Mayo Clinic facilities, which will drive demand for:

- construction
- electrical, heating, and plumbing services
- healthcare professionals

The influx of patients will also boost the hospitality industry.

DEED data shows a regional need in the auto industry, particularly in transportation and autobody sectors. With advancing technology and growing demand for skilled workers, programs to train students in these fields are essential.

During our process, we learned that:

- opportunities for career exploration, as well as access to transportation for these experiences, have been significantly limited.
- many students face challenges in participating in hands-on learning, job shadowing, and internships due to the lack of reliable transportation to off-site locations.





We identified three key initiatives to focus on in the upcoming two-year plan, which align with those previously identified.

1. Gaps in equity and access to programs persist.
2. Professional development for teachers remains a priority as we enter the program approval year.
3. Many programs continue to lack the necessary equipment to meet industry standards.

