



TRADES ON THE MOVE PARTNERSHIP

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EDGERTON EXPLORIT CENTER

SIX REGIONS, ONE NEBRASKA





Why the Skilled Trades Matter

- Skilled trades are critical to infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing.
- Growing demand: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 235,000 job openings annually in construction and extraction occupations through 2033.
- Issue: Fewer young people (ages 18–25) are entering trades, leading to labor shortages.

HEESE EVENT CENT



UNDERSTANDING THE YOUTH TRADE SHORTAGE

- The ratio of retiring Baby Boomers to younger workers entering the trades is roughly **5:2** — for every five retirees, only two new entrants are joining. [skillwork.com](https://www.skillwork.com)
- Nearly **70%** of tradespeople say that labor shortages are a problem in their industry. [Research MS Root](#)
- In the skilled trades workforce, about **40% are over age 45**, and less than 9% of workers are aged 19–24 in trade roles. [PeopleReady](#)
- It is projected that in manufacturing and other skilled-trades sectors up to **2.1 million jobs may go unfilled by 2030** due to the lack of skilled labor. [Census.gov+1](#)
- Shortage = higher project costs, delays, and reduced community capacity



WHY ARE YOUTH AVOIDING TRADES

- 4-year college is often seen as the only "successful" path
- Lack of exposure to real trade careers
- Limited access to hands-on learning at young ages
- Misperception: "Trades don't pay or require skills" (**not true**)
- Financial barriers like upfront training or tools

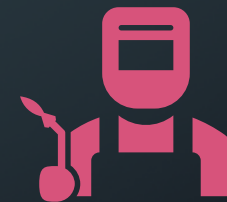
IMPACT OF THE SHORTAGE



Economic: Delayed projects, higher costs. (Construction delay cost \$1.6 trillion annually globally).



Social: Housing shortages worsen due to lack of builders.



Industry: Overworked current workers, reduced innovation.

THE SOLUTION – BRIDGING THE GAP

The 6 Regions/1 Nebraska, Central Workforce Action Team developed a way to create a pipeline in the trades by taking trades education on the road



The group is focused on increasing interest in trades with the youth in Central Nebraska. Dr. Josie Schafer shared important data about gaps and opportunities in the trades in the Central area when the committee met in July 2024.



The project aims to engage Nebraska kids in grades K – 12 with a focus on 3rd – 8th by providing them with programming, local connections, and educating their families about trade opportunities.



The action team approached the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, known for hands-on science education, to put together a 3-year program and budget for Trades on the Move Program based on their Edgerton On The Move model.



EDGERTON TRADES ON THE MOVE OVERVIEW

- Partnership formed by **6 Regions One Nebraska + CCC + Edgerton**
- Developed 3-year program budget: **\$890,503**
- CCC committed **\$300,000** toward launch
- With CCC's partnership, Edgerton has started incorporating Trades Science **into existing programming**
- Full mobile buildout will advance **as additional funding is secured**



WHY EDGERTON?

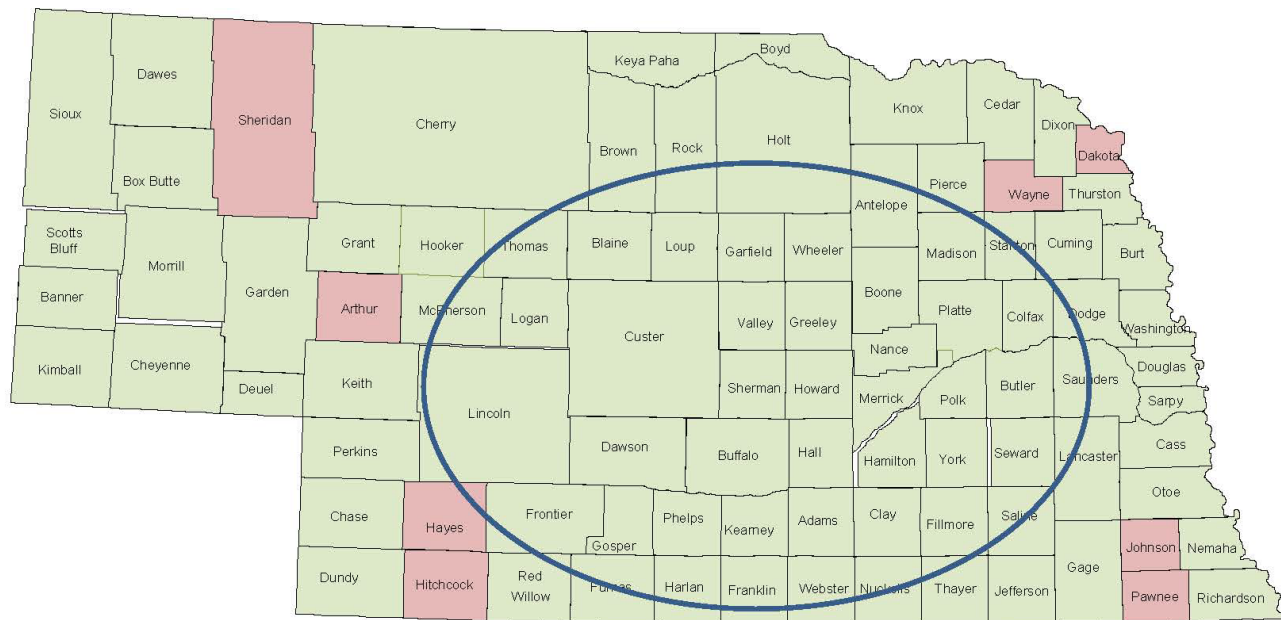
- 30 years of hands-on STEM education leadership in Nebraska
- Proven statewide reach through **Edgerton On The Move**
- Programming impacts **150,000–200,000** people each year
- Known for turning learning into high-energy discovery
- Trusted educational partner by schools, businesses, and communities

EDGERTON EXPLORIT CENTER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS SERVED & EXTENSIVE REACH

Nebraska

Edgerton Explorit Center Programming by county

- Counties Edgerton provided programming in the past 3 years
- Counties Edgerton has not provided programming in the past 3 years
- Counties Edgerton provides multiple programming to each year



- In the past 3 years, we have provided programming in 85 of Nebraska's 93 counties which are highlighted in green.
- We have conducted multiple programs over several years in the 50 counties surrounding Aurora which located in the circled area.
- Edgerton serves between 150,000 and 200,000 students, teachers and families each year.



CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT:

- Central Community College has committed \$100,000 to the Edgerton Explorit Center over 3 years to add Trade Science into their programming
- CCC will also provide access to experts, marketing and recruitment support, and career statistics while building pathways to dual credit and post-secondary opportunities
- Support with grant writing and reporting
- Summer camp opportunities in trades areas

OTHER COMMITMENTS

- RMV Construction has committed to a 3-year loan for a Trades Science pickup.
- \$2,000 grant from the Hamilton County Visitors Committee towards the \$3,800 need to wrap the pickup
- Wortman Enterprises has donated \$25,000 in 3 yearly payments for a total of \$75,000 toward the project.
- Multiple visits and donor meetings held or planned.



PHASE 1: EDGERTON TRADES SCIENCE LAUNCH

Current integration includes:

- Trades-based exhibits, demonstrations, and lab experiences at the Edgerton Center
- Trades content added to **Edgerton On The Move Program** demonstrations, hands-on labs and exploration zone
- Projected reach: **50,000+** students, teachers, and families in Phase 1



METRICS FOR SUCCESS

- # of kids exposed to the trades
- # of schools reached
- # of local contractors included in the training and/or education
- # of parents/families given information on the trades
- Surveys of school staff, teachers and parents to monitor success

HOW YOU CAN HELP:



Exhibit & program sponsorships



In-kind contributions (TOOLS, materials, equipment)



Industry expertise and hands-on mentorship in live programs



Program support for long-term sustainability

QUESTIONS

