

Project PAVE:

An Investment in Our Collective Future

The Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) \$278 million I-270 North Project is an investment in the infrastructure and transportation network of St. Louis. It will improve safety and reliability, link communities and enhance traffic operations within the I-270 North corridor so that the public has a durable and maintainable transportation network for many years to come.

MoDOT and its contracting team leads, Millstone Weber and Parson's Transportation Group, are also investing in the futures of area high school students near the project boundaries.

Project Pave, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program, will mentor, teach and support students attending targeted St. Louis North County high schools. The goal is to stimulate an interest in and pursuit of heavy highway design, engineering, and construction careers.

"Project PAVE will provide students with enhanced opportunities for exploration, education, employment and advancement in construction," said Vivian Martain, Project Pave administrator and civil rights compliance manager for Millstone Weber. "The integration of STEM-based learning into mainstream high school curricula is essential to preparing the next generation to compete on a level playing field for forecasted construction careers and disciplines."

Students attending select high schools near the I-270 North Project corridor will experience real-time roadway construction in progress, as they are granted access and exposure to work sites, field trips, community leaders and industry professionals.

"Students graduating high school often aspire to occupations requiring an advanced degree or settle for occupations that require little skilled training. Project PAVE will give these students the tools and awareness to bridge these career gaps," said Martain.



The program partners with industry, academia, and private and public construction experts. I-270 North Project Staff also play an integral role; helping to connect with school leaders and serving as presenters throughout the program.

Students are exposed to a wide curriculum including Plan Reading, Planning and Design, Technical Math for Construction, Bridges and Interchanges, Safety, Maintenance of Traffic, and Design-Build. Besides the technical areas, students also explore Life Skills like Financial Literacy, Physical, Mental and Social Well-Being, and Communications to name a few.

Cohort 2020-21, the first of the three annual Project PAVE cohorts, began in October 2020 as a virtual activity. STEM presenters have shared their expertise and there are more experts committed to the project. With the decline in pandemic related restrictions, there are high hopes for even greater participation in Cohorts 2021-22 and 2022-23.

STUDENTS ARE EXPOSED TO A WIDE CURRICULUM INCLUDING:



Plan Reading



Planning & Design



Technical Math for Construction



Bridges and Interchanges



Safety



Maintenance of Traffic



Design-Build

This is an opportunity to give students options to pursue rewarding careers in highway construction trades and construction-related professions. This program could open doors for these students that they never even considered, and we are pleased that we were able to bring this to the table as part of the I-270 North Project.

I-270 NORTH PROJECT DIRECTOR JUSTIN WOLF

THE PROGRAM BEGAN IN OCTOBER 2020 AND WILL CONCLUDE WITH ITS FINAL COHORT IN 2023. DURING THIS FIRST SESSION...

31
students

16
ongoing

35
STEM
presenters

STUDENTS ALSO EXPLORE LIFE SKILLS:



Financial Literacy



Physical, Mental & Social Well-Being



Communications