24th Annual

# Duluth & St. Louis County AT THE CAPITOL

# RISE to the challenge

**Hear our stories, virtually, March 3 - 4, 2021**

# We've Gone Digital!

On behalf of Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, thank you for being here.

This Priorities Booklet for Duluth and St. Louis County was created to detail the needs of our region and share the successes of our community. While the pandemic has required our in-person gathering to adapt virtually this year, together we **Rise to the Challenge.**

This booklet was designed for optimal digital interaction:

- Navigate the booklet through the Table of Contents.
- Follow the links to continue reading about each priority.
- Engage with our sponsors by visiting their websites.
- Find easy access to D&SLC Event information.
- Share our message on social media.

We look forward to connecting with you and sharing our stories.

Thank you for your continued support.

24th Annual
Duluth & St. Louis County AT THE CAPITOL

RISE to the challenge

**MEET US AT THE GRAND RECEPTION**
to hear from Duluth and St. Louis County's community leaders. Meet our community members. Learn from our business leaders. See what is happening in our region. While we are unable to gather in person, we look forward to building a stronger tomorrow, virtually.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Virtually on Gatherly
(link will be emailed to you)
Free to attend

Click to RSVP

Duluth Affordable
Housing Coalition

**PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE STATEWIDE 2020 HOMES FOR ALL LEGISLATION, SECURING $100 MILLION IN HOUSING BONDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

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## GREETINGS FROM THE CITY OF DULUTH!

On behalf of the City of Duluth and our incredible staff, welcome to one of my favorite events of the year: Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days. Well, it's not exactly at the Capitol, a fact I know we all wish were different, but here we are!

We all know 2020 was a difficult year, to say the least, and 2021 is already throwing us some big challenges. One thing that remains clear despite it all: our communities, residents, businesses, and neighbors are committed to getting through this. We look out for each other. We do everything we can, when we can, to ensure that even in the most difficult times, we all make it through. If you live in Duluth or St. Louis County, you belong.

Duluth & St. Louis County Days are always about those values. People coming together to advocate for a better future. Together.

This year continues to look, feel and just *be* different. But that doesn't mean that our values are. And it doesn't change our shared *why* for showing up every day to work and life. If anything, the importance of our why is on full display. Struggles among families are real. The razor-thin line of employment is real. The constantly changing circumstances and the unknown is real.

We are real. Every year David Ross tells the story of how this event got its plucky start. A small group of determined individuals set out to St. Paul to advocate for and on behalf of Duluthians. And here we are in 2021 to once again come together with that same shared goal.

There are myriad projects and issues worth advancing, and I have never been more proud to stand virtually beside you all in making our cases to improve our communities.

Thank you to the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce, to our State legislators, to the State of Minnesota, to all of our partners in this work, and to all of you for everything that you do.

Mayor Emily Larson
City of Duluth

## GREETINGS FROM ST. LOUIS COUNTY!

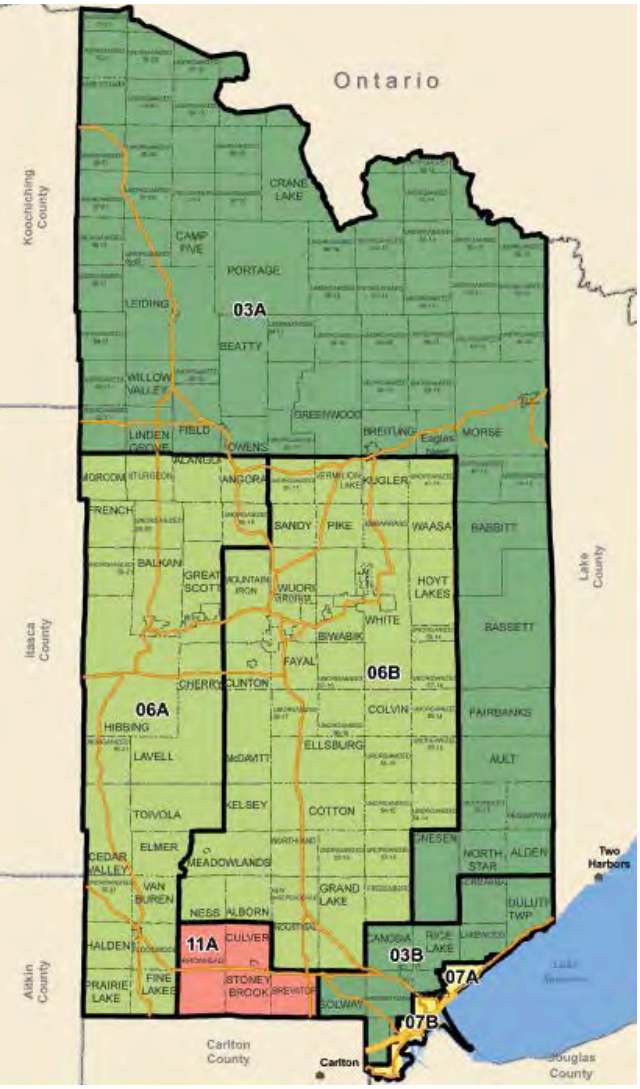
In a year like no other, many people from around the state and region realized something we've known all along. If you're looking for space to spread out, St. Louis County has an abundance. Need a place to get outdoors, take a healthy, deep breath and relax? There's no better place than here.

From Lake Superior to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, not to mention the Iron Range and Lake Vermilion (and a special shout out to Floodwood – the Catfish Capitol of the World), plus endless miles of trails for hiking, biking and ATVs. It's all here in our backyard.

But we are so much more than a destination to escape the pandemic. We are mining, timber, shipping, education, aviation and healthcare, just to name a few of the industries that contribute to our great state.

We understand the tremendous challenges facing our state. We face them, too! Thank you for the COVID relief assistance you already have provided. We are eager to work with you in this new year and new session to find solutions that best serve our citizens and businesses.

Mike Jugovich
Chair, St. Louis County Board




## Duluth and St. Louis County

# REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

## MINNESOTA SENATE

District 03
**Sen. Thomas M. Bakk**
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-8881

District 06
**Sen. David Tomassoni**
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-8017

District 07
**Sen. Jennifer A. McEwen**
95 University Avenue W.
Room 2417
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4188

District 11
**Sen. Jason Rarick**
95 University Avenue W.
Room 3411
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-1508

## MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 03A
**Rep. Rob Ecklund**
409 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-2190

District 06A
**Rep. Julie Sandstede**
411 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-0172

District 07A
**Rep. Jennifer Schultz**
473 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-2228

District 03B
**Rep. Mary Murphy**
343 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-2676

District 06B
**Rep. Dave Lislegard**
413 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-0170

District 07B
**Rep. Liz Olson**
471 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4246

District 11A
**Rep. Mike Sundin**
417 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4308

The City of Duluth is continually grateful to work with legislators and the Administration to safeguard funding for Local Government Aid (LGA). To the extent practical, Duluth seeks increased funding for the LGA formula and maintaining a formula which does not reduce payments to the City.

The City also supports the following local and regional initiatives:

- Funding for housing projects as proposed by the Homes For All Coalition which calls for general obligation bonds for public housing rehabilitation and housing infrastructure bonds for construction of affordable housing through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency;
- Policies to help reduce and prevent evictions, identify and protect Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing, and to address and prevent homelessness;
- Funding for Department of Employment and Economic Development programs such as the Minnesota Investment Fund, the Job Creation Fund and the Redevelopment Account and support for local businesses that may apply for these funds;
- State general obligation bond proceeds for improvements and upgrades to the Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge;
- State general obligation bond proceeds for Port Development Assistance Program;
- State general obligation bond proceeds for improvements at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center seawall to facilitate the transfer of cruise ship passengers from ship to land;
- State funds to support local government efforts to remove and replace trees infested by emerald ash borer and development of markets for products utilizing the resulting wood waste;
- Statutory language that allows Cities of the First Class to require parkland dedication fees for a broader array of development in addition to 'subdivided' property;
- Statutory language that allows local entities to adopt higher commercial building energy standards than what is required by the state code; and
- A statewide policy requiring employers to provide safe and sick time for employees.

THE CITY OF DULUTH MINNESOTA

We all know 2020 was a difficult year, to say the least, and 2021 is already throwing us some big challenges. One thing that remains clear despite it all: our communities, residents, businesses, and neighbors are committed to getting through this.

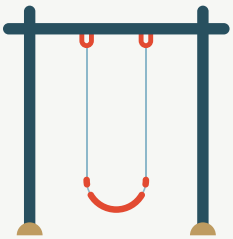
THE CITY OF
DULUTH
MINNESOTA

# A MILLION THANKS!

## $28.3 million to be more precise.

The need is great. We have worked hard with our state and federal partners to put COVID-19 relief funds to the best use to help our citizens, small businesses, and the organizations that serve our community. With the $24.5 million in Federal CARES Act funds allocated by the state, plus the $3.8 million the legislature recently appropriated, St. Louis County granted:

**$6.2 million** to **471** small businesses



**$1.8 million** to **12** public school districts and **2** charter schools

**$2.8 million** to **51** community organizations

**$89 thousand** to landlords, mortgage companies, utility companies, etc. on behalf of eligible individuals in need

**Additional funds helped cover internal costs associated with responding to pandemic needs**

**$3.8 million** – We are in the process of distributing the latest COVID-19 emergency relief funds appropriated by the state for small businesses throughout our county

**THANK YOU, STATE OF MINNESOTA, FOR RECOGNIZING THE NEED AND ASSISTING US IN ASSISTING SO MANY!**

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA

**stlouiscountymn.gov/CARES**

# ST. LOUIS COUNTY:
## KEEPING OUR DISTANCE. MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.

St. Louis County, like all Minnesota counties, has the responsibility of delivering state-mandated services. The pandemic didn't change this. If anything, it increased our citizens' need for some of our services. And we've strived to meet those needs through new and innovative means while focusing on health and safety.

As legislators work through the difficult challenges of setting a budget this year, **OUR KEY REQUEST IS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR COUNTY PROGRAM AID (CPA) AND STATE MANDATED SERVICES**. We rely on these funds to do the work the state has tasked us to do. Any cut in these funds passes the burden to local units of government, and by extension to our property owners.

*The old Biwabik school has been tax forfeited for several years.*

A long standing financial challenge for counties relates to the costs of cleaning up blighted or environmentally contaminated tax forfeited properties, including old school buildings. We ask the state to help with these costs.

*Using CARES Act funds, St. Louis County Public Health has purchased two trailers from which it can provide COVID testing, vaccinations and more.*

**SPECIFIC TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, OUR PRIORITIES INCLUDE:**

- Proceed with last year's plan to not hold counties financially liable for mistakenly billed federal payments for Institutes of Mental Disease (IMD). This would cost St. Louis County residents $700,000.
- Preserve mental health funding for this region by ensuring the new Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) funding formula retains the $2 million annual support already in place.
- Continue special COVID-related HHS waivers and telehealth opportunities. This enhanced flexibility has greatly improved our ability to serve people in need during this pandemic.

This indeed is a time unlike anything in our lifetime. Thank you for the COVID relief you already have provided to our businesses and citizens. The road to recovery is long, but we are here to work with you.

"We've always relied on partnerships to do our best work. During the pandemic, this is perhaps truer than ever. Support from the state has enabled us to assist our business and non-profit communities and better serve our residents.

Thank you, legislators, for your continued partnership! We are all facing tremendous financial pressures. As difficult decisions are made this session, we are here to work with you, as well as to ensure state-mandated services are delivered to our citizens."

Kevin Z. Gray
St. Louis County Administrator

# A COMMUNITY
## LIKE NO OTHER

While 2020 was a year like no other, it brought us together in a way only a crisis can. Essentia Health is touched and humbled by the outpouring of support from our community, neighbors and friends. We thank all the leaders who are working tirelessly in state and local government to help our health care colleagues keep our patients safe. We know you stand with us, and we are committed to bringing the highest quality care to the resilient people of the Northland.

**Together, we will build the very best future for the place we call home.**

Essentia Health

Photographed by George Ilstrup

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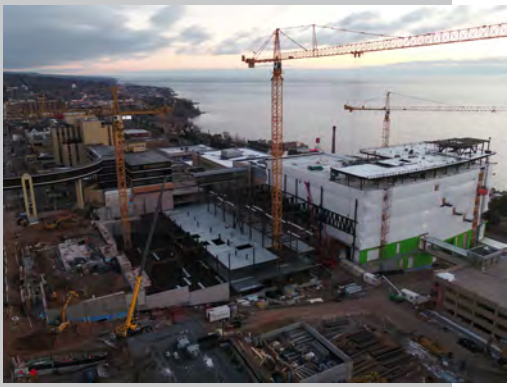
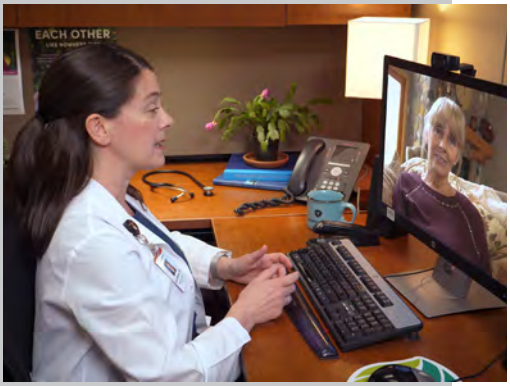
Essentia Health

# ESSENTIA HEALTH






"Essentia Health is passionate about partnering with our community to achieve better health outcomes for all people – inside and outside our walls."

Dr. David Herman
Chief Executive Officer
Essentia Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our health care landscape, with its impact continuing to be felt this year. Essentia Health's legislative priorities have been deeply influenced in response to these challenging times.

**TELEHEALTH:** Essentia has dramatically increased its telemedicine capabilities, which expands access to health care and lowers transmission risks. We urge federal and state governments and private health insurers to take the necessary action to continue increased access to telehealth. We believe this is of national benefit but is crucial for access to care in rural communities. Telehealth also requires ongoing investment in border-to-border broadband services.

**WORKFORCE RESOURCES:** Essentia calls for additional state and federal resources to support the health care workforce necessary to expand hospital capacity and maintain the resources to provide care. We support adoption of various licensure compacts, which remove barriers for those seeking work in Minnesota, and helps to address the shortage.

**CARE BEYOND OUR WALLS:** Essentia is committed to addressing the behavioral and socioeconomic constraints that affect people's health, along with racial and ethnic health disparities. We advocate for continued support for food insecurity programs. We ask our patients about financial, transportation, housing and food insecurity, then connect them to valuable community resources. Making an impact on the social determinants of health improves the quality of life in our communities and reduces health care costs for all.

**VISION NORTHLAND:** We're making significant advancements in our Vision Northland project and will welcome patients in third quarter 2023. The project will have provided more than 5,600 onsite construction jobs and 3,600 off-site construction-related jobs. Our gratitude goes to our state lawmakers and city leaders who have helped to make this a reality.

**DULUTH FAMILY MEDICINE:** Essentia encourages increasing state funding and support for the Duluth Family Medicine Residency Program, which develops physician leaders in rural communities.

# thank you

**Thank you, Minnesota legislators, for helping our students fulfill their dreams.**

This academic year, 33.6% of full-time undergraduate students received Minnesota State Grants.

Our students are future educators, caregivers, health care professionals, artists, business and thought leaders who will go on to make a difference in their communities.

**css.edu**

The College of
St. Scholastica

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The College of St. Scholastica

# STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH VALUES-BASED HIGHER EDUCATION

The College of St. Scholastica's Catholic Benedictine heritage ensures that graduates have a sense of social responsibility and ethical clarity to complement their first-rate professional skills.

The positive effects are felt statewide. St. Scholastica offers programs in Duluth, the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Grand Rapids, among other sites. Bachelor's, master's and doctoral-level education is available in a variety of traditional, accelerated, hybrid and fully online modalities. And graduates fare well – independent research ranks St. Scholastica as Minnesota's top college for the economic mobility of its students.

Throughout its 109-year history, St. Scholastica has helped students who face barriers to higher education. This is evident in current demographics: 17% of students are from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, 31% of undergraduates have family incomes below $50,000, and nearly one-third of undergraduates are first-generation college students. In 2019, the College was honored as one of only 80 colleges nationally to be named a "First Forward" institution for its commitment to first-in-family college students. In light of these demographics, the Minnesota State Grant Program provides critical assistance to our students.

St. Scholastica has a significant role in Minnesota's workforce development. It is a major provider of healthcare workers, with the largest private nursing program in the state as well as growing health science programs. The College's leadership in preparing the future healthcare workforce is more important than ever in light of the current pandemic.

St. Scholastica is nationally recognized for quality and value. U.S. News & World Report includes it on its Best National Universities and Top Performers on Social Mobility lists. The College is ranked on Money magazine's "Best Colleges for your Money" list, Princeton Review's 2021 list of Best Midwestern Colleges, and Forbes' Top Colleges list. Learn more at css.edu.

"I am grateful to Gov. Tim Walz and our state legislators for helping keep college accessible to Minnesota's low- and middle-income students by supporting the State Grant program, particularly during this time of the pandemic and the economic impact it has had on families. This wise investment increases the number of students who can afford to attend college at both private and public institutions and ensures a strong workforce for the future.

Thank you for this vital support!"

Dr. Barbara McDonald
President
The College of St. Scholastica

mnpower.com/CarbonFreeEnergyVision //



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## Our bold vision centers on our commitment to **climate**, **customers** and **communities**.

Minnesota Power is delivering 50% renewable energy today and advancing the clean energy of tomorrow through *EnergyForward*. We're meeting the challenge of climate change head-on while powering our region's homes, hospitals, businesses and industries with cleaner, reliable and affordable energy.

## Our blueprint for building a **100% carbon-free energy future**

- **Expand renewable sources to reach 70% renewable energy by 2030**
- **Adapt operations**
- **Achieve a coal-free energy supply by 2035**
- **Strengthen the electric grid**
- **Adopt innovative solutions**
- **Engage with stakeholders**

minnesota power
AN ALLETE COMPANY

EnergyForward

Duluth News Tribune
Best of the Best
The Northland's People's Choice Awards
2020

## Voted Best Medical Facility in Duluth

We're dedicated to putting the patient above all else in everything we do and proud to be recognized for this by the people of this region. Our latest investment in patients is our all-new, expanded and innovative Emergency Department, designed to put a priority on privacy, comfort and compassion.

**915 E. 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55805 | 218.249.5555**

THE PATIENT.
ABOVE ALL ELSE.®

St. Luke's

**slhduluth.com**



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# ST. LUKE'S
## THE PATIENT. ABOVE ALL ELSE.

As challenging as 2020 was, it was a year of inspiring perseverance, innovation and hope. We'd like to share some of the amazing work that was accomplished at St. Luke's, and to thank you for your support.

### MAJOR EXPANSION FOR EMERGENCY AND CARDIAC CARE

This summer, we celebrated the completion of our new Emergency Department (ED), cardiac cath labs and outpatient services, along with the relocation of our helistop and expansion of our ambulance garage. Focused on patient privacy and comfort, our new ED was built with adaptability in mind and provides 27 private patient rooms. Having these new facilities in place prior to the second wave of COVID-19 cases played a huge role in our ability to care for our patients.

### ROADWORK ENHANCES ACCESS AND PROVIDES CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The state-supported steam-to-hot-water transition of Duluth's energy system led to a major reconstruction of the portion of 2nd Street that leads to our new ED. With the installation of new utilities and a new water main, 2nd Street now helps to slow traffic and enhance wayfinding, benefitting both St. Luke's and our neighbors in the community. Thank you for the role you played in making this happen.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Our mission, The Patient Above All Else is our true north, and we've seen the amazing team at St. Luke's live that mission through one of the most trying times in our generation. The Legislature's support of our medical district has helped us build for the current demands and plan for the future medical needs of our region.

Looking ahead, we'll continue to evolve so that we can provide the right care, at the right time, in the right place, at the right price, to our entire region.

Sincerely,

Eric Lohn
Interim Co-President &
Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Nick Van Deelen
Interim Co-President &
Chief Medical Officer



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# *Harnessing Energy from Wastewater*

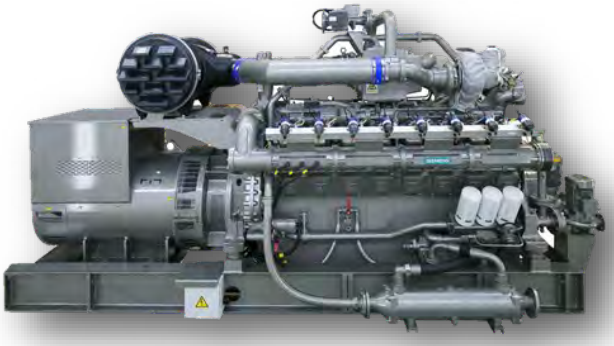
**Thank you Legislators, for your Support in 2020!**

## WLSSD's Combined Heat and Power System

WLSSD already produces enough methane-rich biogas to generate about 50% of the electricity needed to power its large regional wastewater treatment plant. WLSSD uses some gas for heating, but unused gas is wasted.

With generators, WLSSD can use renewable biogas to generate electricity for use in the treatment plant. Heat from the generators can also be recovered and reused.

**Good for the Region**
**Good for Environment**
**Good for the Economy**
**Good for Minnesota**



874kW engine generator

WLSSD

Clear Answers for Clean Water

**Western Lake Superior Sanitary District**



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Clear Answers for Clean Water™

# INVEST IN WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE RETURN IS CLEAR.

Beneath Minnesota's roads and buildings lie thousands of miles of critical wastewater infrastructure bringing trillions of gallons of dirty water from our communities to wastewater treatment plants. Often hidden from view, these facilities clean our water—safeguarding public health and protecting the environment. We depend on this infrastructure for quality of life and for business to thrive and grow, but we don't think about it much until it fails.

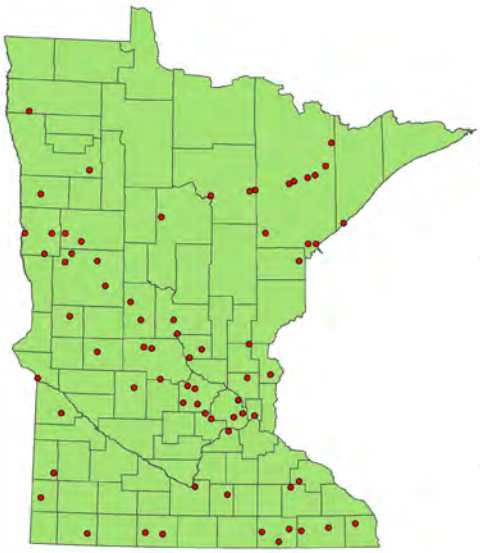
### WLSSD PROJECTS ON THE 2021 IUP

| | |
|---|---|
| • Clarifier improvements phase 2 | $7,000,000 |
| • WWTP Thickener Improvements | $4,000,000 |
| • Hermantown Interceptor replacement | $3,546,997 |
| • Misc. Interceptor rehab, Phase 3 | $3,000,000 |
| • Oxygenation tank improvements | $2,000,000 |
| • Forcemain rehabilitation phase 1 | $2,000,000 |

"When local communities must alone bear the tremendous costs of repairing and replacing this infrastructure, rates become unaffordable and the viability of communities and business is threatened. Now's the time to invest proactively in wastewater infrastructure."

Marianne Bohren
Executive Director
WLSSD

### ROBUST FUNDING NEEDED FOR MINNESOTA'S WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (WIF)



- 111 Critical wastewater projects from 71 Minnesota communities on the statewide 2021 Intended Use Plan (IUP).
- Nearly $1 billion in projects on the IUP awaiting funding.
- State investment helps keep wastewater infrastructure effective and affordable for Minnesota's people and its industries already struggling with tough economic challenges.
- Annual appropriations for the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund are critical—aligning funding levels with growing statewide needs.

# ROAD SALT

A resilient community needs a balanced environment. Making sure that environment endures takes research.

Researchers at Natural Resources Research Institute are studying the effects of road salt. Learning when and where salt is getting into our streams.

**research.d.umn.edu**

UMD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

**Driven to Discover**



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UMD

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

Driven to Discover

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

## STATEWIDE IMPACT

The University of Minnesota Duluth's influence extends across the state. We graduate people prepared to enter the workforce. We conduct impactful and meaningful research and engage in community outreach. With the pandemic we have adjusted classes, mailed lab kits to students so they could do experiments at home, and moved theater performances outside. And through it, we remain strong and UMD proud.

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SYSTEM.

- $46.5 million biennial budget request which focuses on student achievement, increasing multidisciplinary research and technology commercialization, student research and career outcomes, recruiting and retaining diverse students, faculty, and staff, and operational efficiency.
- $200 million for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement projects systemwide. This funding is used to maximize the effectiveness and life of our current facilities. For UMD, this includes $17.9 million in projects.
- $1.64 million in design funding to renew an existing facility and improve educational opportunities in computer science and other science programs.

"Investing in higher education is an investment in our state. UMD continues to innovate and adapt, providing a high-quality educational experience for our students. Our graduates continue to work, live, and positively impact communities across the state. We are grateful for our strong and supportive legislative leaders."

Dr. Lendley C. "Lynn" Black
Chancellor
University of Minnesota Duluth

### UMD BY THE NUMBERS:

- 10,275 students Fall 2020
- 98% of graduates are working or continuing their education
- $500 million regional annual economic impact
- 85% of students are from MN
- 50,404 alumni throughout MN
- 87 undergraduate majors
- 24 graduate programs

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# LAKE SUPERIOR COLLEGE

"Thank you for your support for Lake Superior College and the Minnesota State system. In order to continue to meet growing demands for your regional manufacturing workforce, LSC must be high on the list for legislative actions. Our bonding request is for $1M in planning funding to relocate and expand our outstanding manufacturing programs. This project directly benefits students and our regional economy by continuing to prepare the pipeline of trained talent for local and regional employers."

Dr. Patricia L. Rogers
President
Lake Superior College

Lake Superior College (LSC) is a comprehensive two-year community and technical college, recently ranked among the Top 20 Community Colleges in the Nation, offering over 90 programs including liberal arts and sciences courses for transfer, technical and trade programs, allied healthcare and nursing programs, and continuing education and customized training for business and industry.

**2021/2022 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST:** LSC's Manufacturing Workforce Labs Predesign Bonding Project received strong bi-partisan support in the 2020 legislative session, and we are grateful for the support of our regional delegation, Governor Walz, and many community partners who helped advocate for the much needed project. Given some shifts in priorities during the session, few Minnesota State projects received funding and LSC's project was no exception. However, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure LSC and Duluth remain the premier manufacturing training destination in the region.

$1M in planning dollars will allow LSC to begin the process of relocating, expanding and enhancing LSC's manufacturing program to continue to help meet regional workforce needs.

LSC's current manufacturing program is offered in a remote, downtown campus. The program has outgrown the leased space, which needs upgrading and poses challenges including transportation, parking, and overall access. This project would relocate the program back to LSC's main campus enhancing the labs, improving the student services and support, and reducing operating costs by at least $165,000 annually.

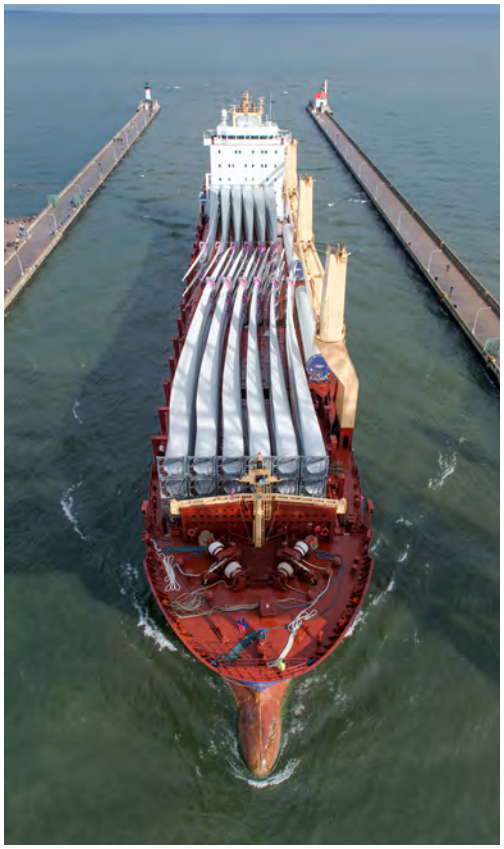
**PROJECT DETAILS:** Renovate 27,900 of square feet into state-of-the-art manufacturing, welding and electronics labs, and add 12,360 square feet for machine tool lab. By relocating the manufacturing program to LSC's main campus, we enhance the student experience by providing better access to services such as the library, tutoring center, and auxiliary services which are all located on the main campus. With a housing project in the works near main campus, this would also help alleviate the transportation issues associated with the downtown campus. This project would also locate the manufacturing programs next to related electronics programs paving the way for a new Robotics and Automated Manufacturing program. LSC is committed to maintaining a presence downtown through more flexible course offerings.

For more details on LSC's legislative request, please visit:
www.lsc.edu/bondingrequest

# Port of Duluth-Superior

**Mid-America's World Port**

**SEA | ROAD | RAIL**
**MULTIMODAL FREIGHT HUB**



**Duluth Seaway Port Authority**
218.727.8525 | www.duluthport.com

feel good fashion
FOR REAL LIFE

maurices
SIZES 0-24

*Discover*
# $H_2O$

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# DULUTH PORT: MID-AMERICA'S GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

You might think that after more than 150 years as the region's cargo capital, Duluth's days of seaport superlatives were behind it, but 2020 proved otherwise. It was, in fact, a record-setting season in the Port of Duluth, with 525,000 freight tons of wind energy cargo sailing into the Clure Public Marine Terminal. This tonnage total blew past the port's previous record set in 2019, further cementing Duluth's status as Mid-America's wind cargo transport hub.

The components – enough to assemble 154 wind turbines – arrived in Duluth aboard 30 ships sailing from eight countries. They included the longest blades (242 feet) and towers (100 feet) ever handled at the Great Lakes' heaviest-lift port. Truck-dispatched from Duluth to three project sites in Minnesota and the Dakotas, this global journey showcased the true strength of our multimodal freight hub, anchored by the Clure Terminal.

Alas, this record-setting season wouldn't have been possible without support from the legislature and MnDOT's Port Development Assistance Program (PDAP). As a public port authority, we are grateful for this vital support, which makes possible the infrastructure capital investment necessary to achieve the port's full potential.

Since 2015, we have invested more than $30 million in expansion and improvement of our port assets, leveraged by $6.5 million in PDAP funding. Projects have included building out our new office, creating a road through the terminal to expedite cargo flow, and putting an underutilized 26-acre pier back into productive service, a renovation that provided 2020's record-setting wind cargo capacity.

These kinds of investments in port infrastructure help reduce freight costs for customers and incentivize businesses to locate or expand here. They also elevate the port's stature worldwide, making it a more attractive choice in the ultracompetitive world of global shipping.

Approximately 35 million tons of cargo move through the port annually, creating $1.4 billion in economic activity, keeping nearly 8,000 people employed and generating $240 million in tax revenues. The port remains a powerful engine for job growth and economic sustainability in the region.

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Learn more at **enbridge.com/Line3US**.

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*Photos from Minnesota pipeline construction in December and during/after Enbridge's Line 3 replacement in North Dakota in 2020.*

"Pipelines are the safest and most efficient way to move crude oil to market and provide significant economic benefits through property taxes that support schools, emergency responders and other local government needs."

Lorraine Little
Director Community Engagement US
Enbridge Energy Company

Learn more at **enbridge.com/line3US**. You can also visit our virtual open house at: **enbridgeopenhouse.com/line3**.

# PRESERVING OUR FUTURE

## THROUGH SMART PLANNING

Rice Lake has been a City since 2015 and has been working to balance our rural lifestyle with economic development, in order to provide additional services to our community. With the addition of Kwik Trip in the fall of 2018 and the proposed opening of Boomtown Brewery in summer of 2021, Rice Lake is poised for commercial development along the Rice Lake Road Commercial Corridor. By working with St. Louis County, the State, and other organizations, Rice Lake is putting together an infrastructure package to promote development while protecting the rural character in the rest of the community.

**www.ricelakecitymn.com**
**218-249-0733**

City of Rice Lake

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
1870—2020

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# CITY OF RICE LAKE: PRESERVING OUR FUTURE

Rice Lake Memorial

"The City of Rice Lake looks to continue working with our Legislative Leaders and the Governor's Office in advancing the needs of both the city's infrastructure and municipal projects as well as always being cognizant of the fact that we are one small piece of the Head of the Lakes Region. We have made great strides in this partnership in opening doors financially, legislatively, and cooperatively with both county and state governance and look forward to continued collaboration."

John Werner
Mayor
City of Rice Lake

Since Rice Lake incorporated as a city in 2015, we have been working at leaving behind the township mentality and moving towards city priorities. The theme of Rice Lake's recently updated Comprehensive Plan was Preserving our Future through smart planning. Our citizens have shown overwhelming support of remaining rural in character while providing a few additional services and amenities to our community. We have been working with St. Louis County and the Metropolitan Interstate Council to create a transportation plan for the Rice Lake Commercial Corridor which will allow for additional commercial growth within our community.

## UTILITY WATER LOOP AND EXTENSION

Rice Lake received $1 million from the State last year for a sewer and water extension on Rice Lake Road so plans are being drawn up for the work to start this summer. This project will get the City poised for development along the Rice Lake Commercial Corridor thus allowing for additional services and amenities in our community and creating a larger commercial tax base to help alleviate the tax burden on our homeowners. We are still requesting approximately $1 million from the State for a water loop extension from our Public Works Building on Martin Road to our existing water main on Howard Gnesen Road, which was not funded last year. This project would serve the other main purpose of Preserving our Future by completing a water loop between two existing water mains in an area of the City which is rural in character and doesn't have many homes along the proposed extension.

## BECOMING BROADBAND READY

Rice Lake also suffers from slow, unreliable internet throughout much of the community, this has become more apparent due to the "Stay at Home" restrictions put in place due to COVID-19. We have partnered with the Blandin Foundation and CTC to complete an engineering study for preliminary costs of providing Fiber-to-the-Home. These costs came in at $12 million, which we will use to seek additional funding to construct the fiber network. Please support funding for the Border-to-Border grant program to help communities like Rice Lake provide high speed internet to its residents and businesses.

*Wild Rice Lake*

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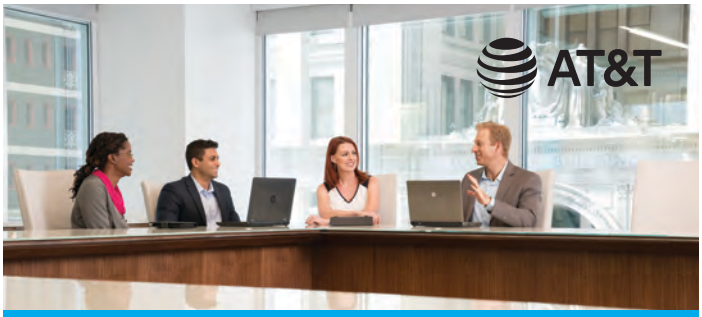


Connections.

Businesses are a lifeline for communities like Duluth. That's why AT&T works with local organizations to help keep business connected.

We're proud to work with the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsor Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days.

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City of Hermantown Minnesota

"We have experienced success in growing the level of health and wellness in southern St. Louis County with the Essentia Wellness Center. We believe that continued evolution is possible through a greater accessible trail system and increased opportunities for recreation and sports. Increasing our investment in adult and youth recreational facilities will multiply the positive impact of sales tax on the health of the entire region."

Wayne Boucher
Mayor
City of Hermantown

**The expectation is big investments take the longest to pay off.**

# THE EXCEPTION MAY BE HERMANTOWN.

In October of 2019, the journey from community-gathering space idea to 70,000+ square-foot health and wellness facility was finalized with the opening of the Essentia Wellness Center (EWC). A partnership between Hermantown, the school district, the region's largest employer, and the local branch of a respected national organization came together to meet multiple community needs.

At the EWC, Essentia Health is tackling needs in physical and occupational therapy, mental health, and more. St. Louis County ranks in the bottom quartile of Minnesota counties in health outcomes, now Hermantown has taken a healthy stand at the EWC.

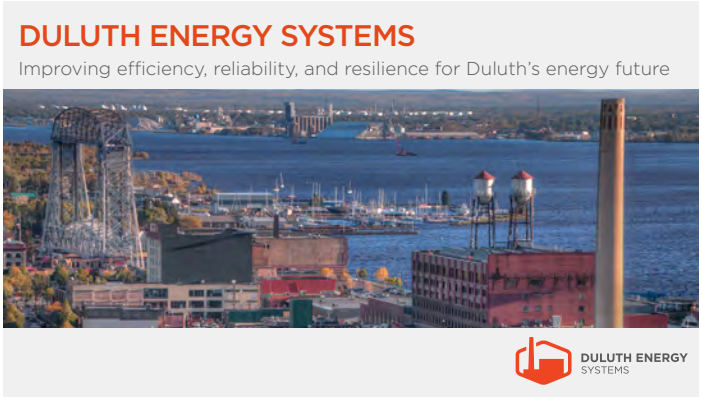
The Duluth Area Family YMCA planned for 450 new members in the EWC's first year, while adding critically-needed child care options to the region. The additional child care proved immediately successful and the EWC's YMCA surpassed five-year membership goals of nearly 5,000 members within five months. Rather than an immediate impact on hundreds of lives, the EWC has provided exponential success.

The project, primarily funded through sales tax and a state bonding grant, is the largest investment in Hermantown's history. The hope was the long-term investment would pay off someday. That someday is now.

The next step is to maximize the health impact of Hermantown's sales tax. Hermantown is requesting a one-half percent sales tax increase to add to a regional trail system, as well as reimagining youth and community recreation and sports complexes.

The impact of these projects is greater than just increased access to recreation opportunities though trails, fields, and rinks. Paired with the EWC, it is about creating more options for the entire community. COVID-19 also showed the need for increased outdoor opportunities to pair with the EWC.

With a healthy return on Hermantown's initial sales tax investment, there is optimism this will further improve regional health beyond the EWC.



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

McGough is proud to be involved with making Duluth and St. Louis County thrive by creating jobs and building a healthy 2021 and beyond.

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McGough is a well-respected developer, general contractor and construction management firm that brings six generations of experience completing high-profile, unique and complex construction projects. Our Duluth regional office serves Duluth and St. Louis County areas as well as northern Minnesota. We are committed to the Duluth and St. Louis County region and appreciate the investments the city, county and state have made in this region.

McGough would like to thank the State for its support of the **Medical District project**. Tax incentives as well as infrastructure spending in exchange for significant private investment will assure that Duluth has the highest level of healthcare and state-of-the-art medical facilities.

This project will enhance both the patient and staff experience while improving the availability, affordability and quality of healthcare for Duluth and the region. This facility will boost Duluth and St. Louis County's economy and attract and retain top talent as well as serve as a catalyst for other investments and economic development.

Essentia Health Vision Northland

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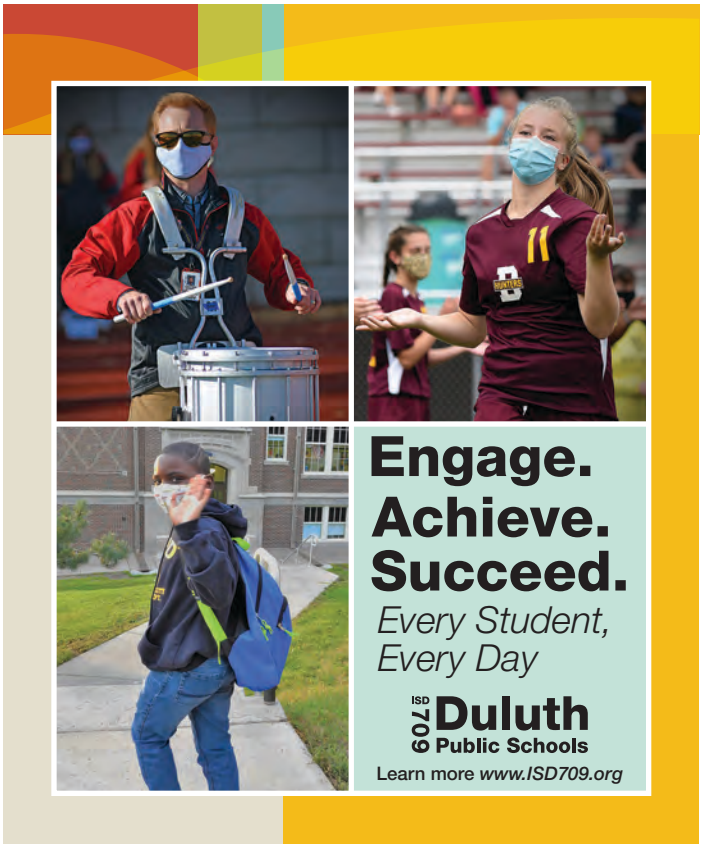
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# DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The Duluth Public Schools wishes to thank our legislators for successfully advocating for us in 2020 and passing a legislative initiative that will allow the district to move toward redevelopment of both the Historic Old Central High School and Central High School on the hill. This will allow the district to save millions of dollars on facilities in the coming years and reinvest those dollars into educating our students."

John Magas
Superintendent
Duluth Public Schools

In 2021, we are hopeful that the Legislature will help the district resolve issues with the special education funding gap that occurred in 2016. The House Education Committee heard our story and included the correction in their Omnibus bill during the 2019 regular session, but unfortunately this request did not make it through in the 2019 special session.

This issue tops our priority list in 2021 and we look forward to building on the work we have done with legislators to make progress on this important issue.

## WE ARE ASKING FOR:

- A permanent increase to the District's Special Education base in FY22
- A one-time payment of $4.5 million to fill the gap that was created by the artificially low base created in FY16 under the new formula
- Additional cross-subsidy aid payment for districts "over the cap" in FY16-FY20
- Support for the School Finance Working Group, facilitated by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), to focus on tuition billing rate adjustments

## OUR OTHER 2021 PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Support a COVID-19 Funding Gap with Enrollment Adjustment for 2021
- Increase the Basic Education Formula Allowance, adjusting the FY22 basic allowance to 3% and adding an annual cost of living increase
- Expand Eligible Uses for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Revenue
- Invest in School Based Early Education Programs - for all learners
- Expanding the Mental Health Professionals Grant Program
- Increased Financial Support for Full-Service Community Schools Model

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# SUPPORT OUR FOOD & BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS

The restaurant and hospitality industry has been catastrophically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol Days event has been our opportunity year after year to showcase the fantastic food and beverage establishments in our region. As the 2021 event is unable to gather in person, our local restaurants, breweries, cideries, and caterers hope to remind you of the great dining and drinks that await you up North.

Please, on your next drive up I-35, plan a stop at one or more of these locally owned establishments. Our small businesses need your support now more than ever. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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# THANK YOU

**VALUED ELECTED OFFICIALS,**
Thank you for welcoming Duluth and St. Louis County participants, virtually, to the Capitol, and for listening to our perspectives and requests.

**APPRECIATED ST. LOUIS COUNTY KEY STAKEHOLDERS,**
Thank you for giving your time and attention to amplify our collective voice at the Capitol.

The Duluth Area Chamber is pleased and proud to assist in coordinating this ambitious and energizing event, Duluth & St. Louis County at the Capitol. We are excited to share our plans, and our requests, with you.

In support,

David Ross

David Ross
President & CEO
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce

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