



MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

May 1, 2023

Dear Chair Champion, Chair Hassan and members of the SF3035 Conference Committee,

The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation would like to thank Chair Champion and Chair Xiong for including the funding for the Carts to Careers Program (HF2407 – Reyer / SF2507- Westrom) in the House Economic Development omnibus bill and the Senate Jobs, Economic Development, Labor, and Industry omnibus bill.

Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multi-generational, and locally owned. From farm to fork, our industry is incredibly labor intensive and provides 1 out of every 20 jobs in our great state. These are not just jobs, we offer opportunities for a successful lifetime career, with competitive pay and a wide range of benefits to meet the needs of our very diverse workforce. The support of this committee will allow the Carts to Careers program the opportunity to grow talent from within our industry and highlight the life-long careers that are available to workers and necessary for healthy and viable communities.

This funding will allow Carts to Careers to continue the successful work of our Retail Management Certificate Program, which started in 2019 in conjunction with Alexandria Technical & Community College. In addition, we are excited about the opportunity to create new avenues to life-long careers. Carts to Careers is developing a new meat-cutting program in partnership with Ridgewater Community College to address the chronic shortage of professional meat-cutters in the state. The Carts to Careers Program is also excited about our new transportation and driving program that will allow warehouse workers in the industry to advance their career by training to become an in-demand transportation professional.

As a state, we understand the importance of having viable brick-and-mortar grocery stores and a robust supply chain. This takes a strong workforce and we are proud of the incredible opportunities – from farm to fork – for careers in our industry. As one of our graduates so eloquently testified before the Senate Jobs committee, “This program helped me find my way and guided me to where I belong in the retail field.” Thank you again to the committee for your support of the Carts to Careers program.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pfuhl
President
Minnesota Grocers Association

The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association representing the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. Minnesota has a unique culture of hundreds of hometown grocers and convenience stores, many of whom are independent, multigenerational, and locally owned. The MGA is their state trade association, with over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 members with over 1,300 locations statewide, as well as food producers, manufacturers, brokers, and wholesaler members. Our industry provides both union and non-union. The MGA is tasked to support and represent industry while advancing the common good of our great state.



CARTS TO CAREERS



Carts to Careers is a multi-pronged approach to expanding industry's workforce. The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation with the State of Minnesota provides tuition support for classes completed for the specific purpose of furthering employees' current career or providing educational opportunities for a new career in the food industry of Minnesota.

DEVELOPS

key foundational skills with a immediate workplace application

BUILDS

confidence and significantly increases level of engagement

PREPARES

Minnesotans to take on leadership roles within an industry

STRENGTHENS

workforce for a viable food industry in the state of Minnesota

RETAIL MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

Alexandria Technical &
Community College

Online 8-course business
program with supported
work experience



TRANSPORTATION & DRIVING INSTRUCTION

Various Minnesota training
centers and industry
internships

Commercial Drivers
License, safety, and
technical training



MEAT CUTTING & PROCESSING TRAINING

Ridgewater College with
more locations to come

Online training and in-store
industry internships

