

## The Story of the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center

In late 1995, a cross-functional team representing the United Auto Workers Local 879 and the Ford Motor Company found themselves standing on common ground. They were exploring innovative ways to grow their business and prepare employees, citizens of Minnesota to compete in the new millenium. Their concept took shape: the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center evolved.

By early 1996 the team had attained support from the community, the Mayor's Office, the State, union leadership, and Ford executives. The governor and legislature of the State of Minnesota provided \$5M for construction. The UAW-Ford National Program Center provided \$2.3M to furnish and equip the facility. Nearly \$1M in additional funding has been provided by the Ford Motor Company and the City of St. Paul for site preparation, project management, utilities, and landscaping. The Ford Motor Company anticipates duplicating the State's expenditure many times over, maintaining the facility and its technologies during the 25-year term of the Ground Lease.

Construction of the 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility began in the spring of 1998. The UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center opened to employees and citizens in April of 1999.

The lobby serves as the new employee/visitor entrance to the Twin Cities Assembly Plant and features a 25-foot mural painted by plant employees. The building also includes an auditorium, the UAW-Ford Skills Enhancement Center, a robot lab, an electronics lab, three technical training labs, an expansive machine shop, a personal development lab, an auto-diagnostic lab, a metal finish bay, three computer labs, eight classrooms, four break-ut rooms, and more. Twin Cities Assembly Plant employees and students of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) will benefit from the "hands-on" learning opportunities provided by the robotics, computers, advanced audio-visual systems and teleconferencing technologies.

The UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center serves as one innovative example of how government can partner with private industry. Minnesota will become more competitive and gain recognition for its positive business climate as this project attracts new employers that provide "head-of-household" incomes to the state. MnSCU students will have access to the advanced technologies provided by the UAW and Ford well into the future. The technical curricula offered by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will benefit as a result. Twin Cities Assembly Plant employees will gain tools with which they can improve their skills and their ability to delight an ever-changing market. And finally, the plant retains valuable production floor space and the ability to expand capacity if dictated by product demand.

This project and the partnerships that have formed as a result demonstrate the best of "Win/Win" outcomes. **Welcome to the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center.**

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# TRAINING CENTER



MnSCU

Minnesota State Colleges & Universities

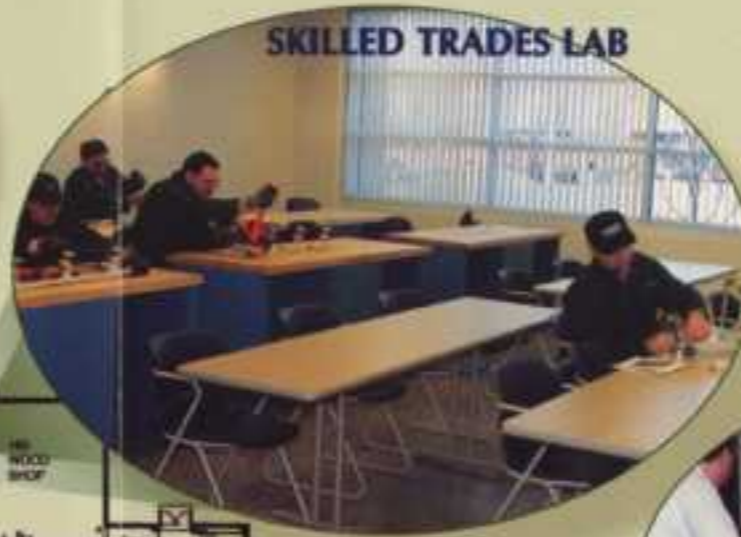
TRAINING CENTER ENTRANCE



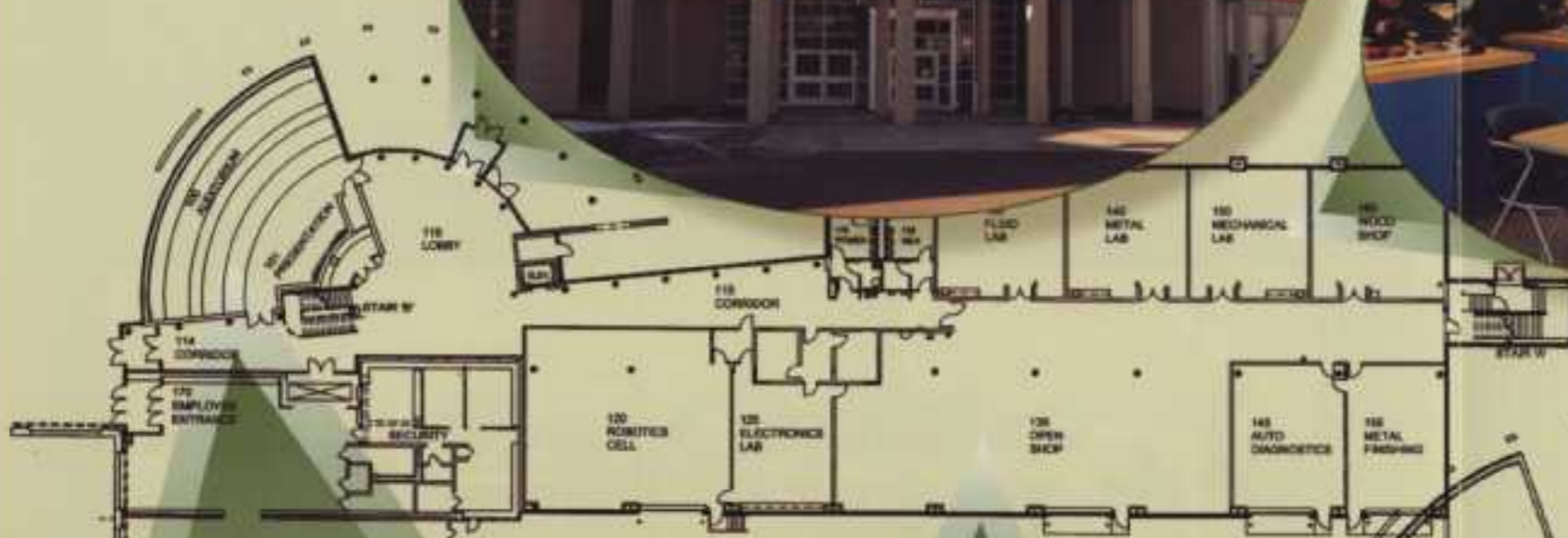
CLASSROOM



SKILLED TRADES LAB



COMPUTER CLASSROOM



AUDITORIUM



MAIN SHOP



LOUNGE



SKILLS ENHANCEMENT CENTER