

For Immediate Release

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## **Amazon Announces Two Twin Cities-Based Educational Partners for Career Choice, Providing Fully-Funded Tuition for Hourly Employees in Minnesota**

*Career Choice is part of Amazon's [Upskilling 2025](#) pledge – a \$1.2 billion commitment to upskill more than 300,000 Amazon employees by 2025*

MINNEAPOLIS – March 3, 2022 – Amazon announced today that it is further expanding the career advancement opportunities it offers its 750,000 hourly employees in the U.S. by partnering with more than 140 national and local universities to provide fully-funded college tuition. The announcement is part of the company's ongoing enhancements to Career Choice—an Amazon upskilling program designed to help frontline employees grow their skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere.

In Minnesota, employees will have access to an education from Dakota County Technical College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College, as well as national online education providers including Southern New Hampshire University, Western Governors University, National University, and Colorado State University – Global. Amazon will also partner with GEDWorks and Smart Horizons to provide high school completion and GED preparation, Voxy EnGen and goFLUENT to provide English language proficiency training, and Outlier to provide college preparation courses—all for free.

"We are excited to be partners with Amazon in the Career Choice program. Most of our students work in addition to going to college, so it makes sense to collaborate with employers who invest in their employees' development by providing tuition support," Michael Berndt, President of Dakota County Technical College, explained.

These new partnerships are part of Amazon's continued investment in its Career Choice program, which not only offers fully-funded college tuition, but also allows employees to participate every year they work at Amazon and gives them eligibility after only 90 days of employment. Through Career Choice, employees can pursue a Bachelor's degree, earn industry certifications leading to in-demand jobs, and build skills through English language proficiency and high school completion programs.

With Career Choice, Amazon works to make it easy for employees to advance their education—even building classrooms on-site in many of its buildings. Employees can take classes online, in-person at a local university, or on-site in one of the over 110 Career Choice classrooms located in fulfillment centers in 37 states. Since launching in 2012, Career Choice has helped provide education for more than 50,000 employees. As of this announcement, Amazon's Career Choice works with more than 180 education providers across the U.S., which along with colleges and universities includes partners providing industry certifications, English language proficiency, and high school completion programs. Career Choice is one of nine free skills training and education programs that Amazon offers to its employees as part of its Upskilling 2025 pledge.

"The Career Choice program is a great resource for employees. I was intrigued when a Career Choice opportunity for a web development certification was available, and I jumped at the opportunity because Amazon provided flexible scheduling, full funding, and classes inside the facility where I work. I'm using that certification daily in my current role at the fulfillment center to help support site-wide communications and to grow my personal endeavors outside of work," Alex Mercord, who works at Amazon's Shakopee fulfillment center, remarked.

"We're committed to empowering our employees with easy access to the education and training they need to grow their careers, whether that's with us or elsewhere," said Alicia Boler Davis, Senior Vice President of Global

Customer Fulfillment. “We’re thrilled today to be adding more education partners to our Career Choice program, which we hope will give our team access to the educational paths that fit their passions. Whether someone is looking to build their English proficiency skills, prepare for GED testing, or earn their Bachelor’s degree, we’re working to meet our employees wherever they are on their educational journey.”

Career training is just one of the industry-leading benefits that Amazon offers to its team. In addition, Amazon pays employees an average starting wage of \$18 per hour, which is more than double the federal minimum wage, and provides comprehensive health benefits, paid time off, up to 20 weeks of fully paid parental leave, and additional benefits for employees and their families.

To learn more about Career Choice, visit: <https://www.aboutamazon.com/news/workplace/career-choice>

To learn more about Amazon’s \$1.2 billion investment to upskill 300,000 employees in the next four years, visit: <http://aboutamazon.com/upskilling2025>

Jobs are available across Minnesota. Interested candidates can see all open positions by accessing the following link: <https://hiring.amazon.com/>

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