

Strategic Direction Four: Community Development & Economic Vitality

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will work in new and collaborative ways to maintain and build vital communities and economies at the local, regional and state level.

Rationale - Minnesota's higher education systems should "assist the state in being competitive in the world market and to prepare a highly skilled and adaptable workforce that meets Minnesota's opportunities and needs." (Minnesota State Statute Section 135A.053, Subdivision 1.) The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System is in a unique and important position to help Minnesotans develop the knowledge and skills they need to create strong communities and economies.

Indicator 11: Economic Development

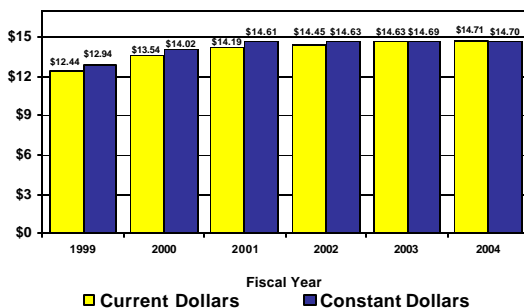
Measure 11C: Graduates Median Wage Rates

Definition: Measure 11C reports the median wage rate earned by system graduates with related employment during the year after graduation. The numerator is total dollars earned by each graduate during the fiscal year. The denominator is the total number of hours worked by each graduate during the fiscal year. Median wage rates are reported to reduce the influence of extreme values at the top and bottom of the wage distribution.

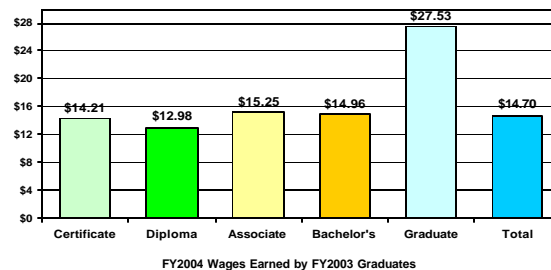
Significance: Measure 11C is significant in that it indicates graduates' economic returns to their college and university education during the first year after graduation. This measure is complementary to Measure 11A, Graduate Related Employment Rate.

Measure: The Fiscal Year 2004 median wage rate earned by Fiscal Year 2003 system graduates was \$14.70, as shown in Figure 11C-1. The constant dollar wage rate has been stable at this level for the last three years.

**Figure 11C – 1
CONSTANT DOLLAR GRADUATE WAGE
RATES ARE STABLE**

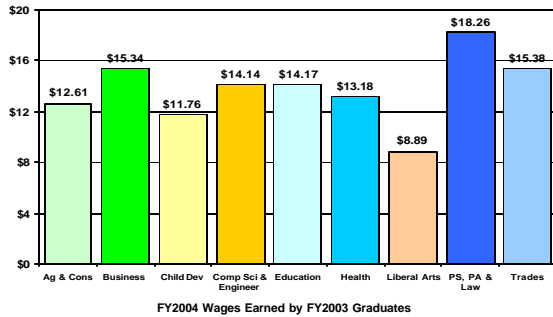


**Figure 11C – 2
WAGE RATES ARE HIGHEST
AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL**



Drill-Downs: Median wage rates for Fiscal Year 2003 graduates were highest at the graduate level, as shown in Figure 11C-2. This reflects the fact that many graduate students have been in the workforce for several years and are using the graduate degree to advance in their careers. Certificate graduates in the law enforcement, the trades and business have the highest median wage rates, as shown in Figure 11C-3. Bachelor's graduates in the health fields and computer science and engineering have the highest median wage rates, as shown in Figure 11C-4.

**Figure 11C – 3
CERTIFICATE WAGE RATES
ARE HIGHEST IN LAW, TRADES & BUSINESS**



**Figure 11C – 4
BACHELOR'S WAGE RATES
ARE HIGHEST IN HEALTH & COMPUTER SCIENCE**

