

## 2 Develop a collaborative and coordinated academic planning process that advances affordability, transferability and access to our programs and services across the state.

Our goal is to prepare the right number of graduates, in the right places with the right skills and knowledge to enable students' career and life success. Our educational delivery system must respond more quickly to population changes and market needs, better matching our capacity with the demand for higher education. We must find the balance between honoring our commitment to serve communities across the state and, at the same time, investing where demand is increasing.

Today, our colleges and universities collectively offer more than 2,800 programs on 54 campuses with credentials ranging from certificates to doctorate degrees. Currently the institutions determine their individual portfolios – both in the liberal arts and sciences and also in career programs – with limited regional or system-wide collaboration. As a result, there is little joint course or program development or delivery, and there is variance among similarly titled courses and programs. This poses challenges for undergraduate students transferring to a different college or university within the system, which is significant considering that 37 percent of our college graduates and 45 percent of our university graduates enroll in more than

one of our institutions. Each semester, more than 30,000 students take courses from more than one institution. Significant progress has been made to improve transfer, but there remains a lot to do.

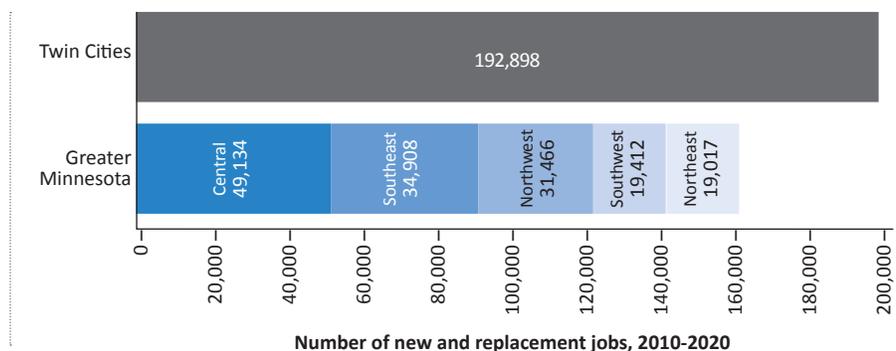
Our educational programs are also designed to honor our commitment to prepare students for careers and provide a high quality workforce for Minnesota. Through partnering colleges and universities that comprise our Centers of Excellence, more regional programming has evolved to meet workforce needs and promote more seamless transfer. Local technical program advisory boards, broader discussions with business leaders statewide, collaboration with the Itasca Workforce Alignment Group and many other partnerships are helping us strategize about how better to meet the state's workforce needs.

### Strategies:

- Develop a comprehensive academic planning process that aligns our course and program offerings and support services to student demand as well as to regional and state workforce needs.

**FIGURE 5.**  
**PROJECTED NEW AND REPLACEMENT JOB GROWTH BY REGION**

SOURCE: System Office Research, Planning and Policy



- Advance student success by expanding access to our academic programs and courses through flexible scheduling and course delivery models, as well as deeper collaboration among our colleges and universities.
- Integrate and coordinate our facilities and technology planning to enhance students' educational experience.
- Increase attention to professional development and engage our faculty in ongoing disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations to strengthen the transferability and quality of program offerings.

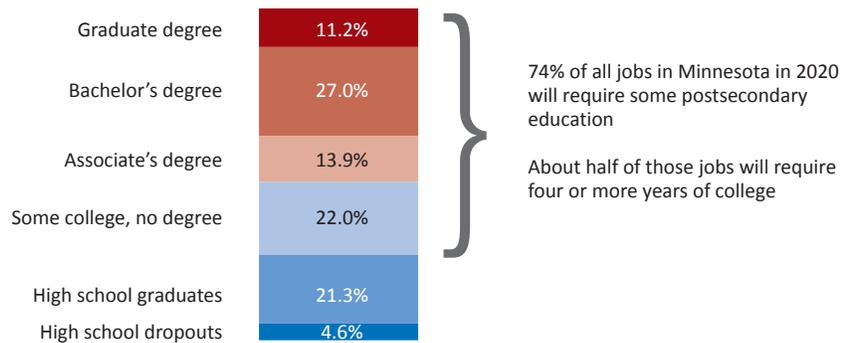
- Accelerate development of partnerships with secondary schools to provide opportunities for college-ready students to take college-level courses tuition free while in high school, making higher education more affordable.

**We must find the balance between honoring our commitment to serve communities across the state and, at the same time, investing where demand is increasing.**

**FIGURE 6.**  
**MINNESOTA WILL NEED MORE PEOPLE WITH A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE NATION**

SOURCE: The Georgetown University Center on the Workforce, 2013

**2020 Job Forecast by Education Required**  
100 percent = 3.2 million jobs



**FIGURE 7.**  
**MORE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLING IN MULTIPLE CAMPUSES AT THE SAME TIME**

SOURCE: MnSCU Office of Research and Planning

