



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 2006 Supplemental Budget Request: \$31.5 million

Summary

Technology	\$15.0 million
Energy	\$10.0 million
Global skills initiative	\$3.5 million
Consortium for excellence in biosciences	\$3.0 million
Total request:	\$31.5 million

- Upgrade the computer system used by all state colleges and universities to provide services and collect data.
- Upgrade network hardware infrastructure to meet growing demands and enhance online services to students, including those serving in the military.

Description and Rationale

Technology: \$15 million

As colleges and universities become more and more dependent on advanced technology for teaching and providing educational services, the need for a stable and secure technology infrastructure has become critical.

Over the past several years, the system has seen significant growth in the use of technology in the classroom and to support educational services. Online registration, tuition payment and student services now are available to students at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Growth in online learning has exploded, with more than 100 programs and 4,700 course sections now offered completely or predominantly online. More than 30,000 students take online courses each year.

With this growth, security of information has emerged as a major concern. Outside attacks on computer systems have required more sophisticated measures to protect private data on individuals. The technology and support infrastructure needed to provide educational services must be stable and secure, which cannot be guaranteed without funding to make critical hardware, network, security and support stabilization improvements.

This funding would be used to:

- Provide improvements to technology and computer security infrastructure to meet the increased demand for online academic and administrative services.
- Assess the system's vulnerability and develop and implement a systemwide security program.

Energy: \$10 million

Like many state agencies, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have had higher-than-anticipated costs for fuel and utilities and are expecting even higher costs in 2007. These include the cost of natural gas, fuel oil, electrical power, gasoline, diesel fuel and district steam and hot water.

In fiscal year 2006, energy costs were \$6.7 million higher than the amount budgeted by the colleges and universities, and 2007 costs are expected to be \$10.1 million over the budgeted amount.

- This funding will cover part of the shortfall.
- The system is requesting that the \$10 million be considered an adjustment to the base budget as opposed to a one-time appropriation.

Global skills initiative: \$3.5 million

This initiative is designed to keep Minnesota competitive in the global economy and expand student awareness and understanding of global trends and issues. The education markets in China and other countries present enormous opportunity for the state and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The system's institutions are uniquely positioned to provide associate, bachelor's and applied master's degree programs, which are in high demand in China and other developing regions of the world.

The goal of the global skills initiative is to build capacity to provide students with the skills they need to compete in a 21st century global economy, to foster institutional environments conducive to excellence in teaching and learning, and to enhance Minnesota's economic growth and prosperity.

Funds will be used to:

- Build the capacity to offer Chinese and other critical language instruction in the state's colleges and universities.
- Build the capacity to infuse the curriculum in the state's colleges and universities with relevant learning modules on global history and culture.
- Build linkages to the K-12 schools to create greater future capacity to meet the rapidly changing skills and knowledge needs of Minnesota students.
- Position the system to become the global leader in customized training in areas where market demand is high, such as aviation management and repair, automotive technology, home health care and manufacturing. China, India and Turkey are examples of countries that have high market demand for these signature programs.
- Develop international study abroad and exchange programs for students and faculty.

This initiative would create a focus on biosciences and would allow the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to showcase, elevate and expand the capacity to make the Minnesota workforce second to none in the world in bioscience.

Funds would be used to:

- Establish a consortium in bioscience education and applied research, recognizing the divergent needs of each of the unique industry sectors and building on existing leadership in these areas among system institutions.
- Coordinate activity in a way that would create efficiencies for common functions, such as marketing, managing federal and private foundation grant applications; developing new tools for ongoing labor force data collection from bioscience-related industries; and providing a single, clear point of entry for potential partners in bioscience education and training.

Consortium for excellence in biosciences: \$3 million

State leaders have made a commitment to support the growth of Minnesota biobusiness so that Minnesota may capitalize on its promise of higher-than-average job growth and wages. With investments in research, Minnesota is positioning itself to rapidly accelerate growth of new and existing biobusiness companies across the state. Access to a larger number of skilled employees, as well as ongoing training to support increased productivity, will be critical for the growth of these companies.

Minnesota is the only state to have nationally recognized programs in education and workforce development in all four bioscience-related categories: medical device and regulatory affairs; medical biotechnology research, development and biomanufacturing; agricultural and industrial biotechnology, including renewable energy; and nanotechnology.



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