



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

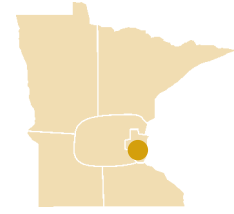
PROJECT/REQUEST

LOCATION

Metro Alliance
10 Twin Cities
area state colleges and
Metropolitan State
University

Meeting English Needs
of Immigrant Students

\$1,500,000



Project at a Glance

- Address the English language needs of new immigrants entering higher education programs at the Twin Cities area Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Develop a replicable and sustainable set of strategies for immigrants ready for higher education learning but whose success might be limited by language barriers
- Establish course sequences for English language learners in certificate, diploma and degree career pathways

Project Description

The number of English language learners in college has grown dramatically over the past five years.

- Minneapolis Community and Technical College gives placement tests annually to nearly 2,000 students for whom English is a second language. Of those, nearly 25 percent score below the college's readiness measure for participation in offerings of English-as-a-Second-Language and developmental education.
- St. Paul College responds to the academic needs of the Somali, Hmong, Russian and Hispanic learners in the St. Paul area.



An influx of immigrants is placing new demands on colleges to help with English language learning programs.

- More than 13 percent of Anoka Technical College student enrollment is now composed of English language learners.
- Century College students represent more than 70 different countries. Most of the students are refugees and immigrants.
- More than 590 English language learners were enrolled in English for Academic Purpose courses at Normandale Community College during spring semester 2004.

The Metro Alliance institutions will form a consortium to expand college credit offerings to English language learners in Minneapolis, St. Paul and metropolitan area suburbs. Century College in White Bear Lake will be the lead institution on this project.

This project will research, test and develop a replicable and sustainable set of strategies, including:

- Skill assessment and placement
- English-as-a-Second-Language curriculum development

- Teaching methods and delivery strategies
- Software and technology innovations to enhance instruction and learning
- Faculty development
- Student services
- Learning outcomes and research

Several strategies already are under way to meet the needs of immigrant students. For example, Minneapolis Community and Technical College is offering a summer workshop for English language students to increase their awareness of strategies

for success at college. This course will help these students set academic goals and identify their own career pathways. It also will familiarize them with the campus and the concept of “college readiness.”

The Metro Alliance unites 11 institutions of higher education in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to better prepare the diverse residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area for learning, employment, citizenship and life.

More than 95,000 students were enrolled in credit courses in fiscal year 2003 at the metropolitan area state colleges and universities.

The growth in the enrollment of English language learners in the public schools and in higher education demonstrates the dramatically growing need to provide them with appropriate support.

- From 1990 to 2000, the number of English language learners students in the public schools in Hennepin County increased from 3,900 to more than 14,000, an increase of nearly 260 percent.

- Ramsey County experienced an increase from approximately 4,500 English language learners students to more than 17,000, nearly a 280 percent increase over this 10-year period.
- Anoka County had a 719 percent increase in English language learner student enrollment, Dakota County had a 267 percent increase, and Washington County had a 173 percent increase over that decade.

Project Contact:

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The Metro Alliance Institutions are:

- Anoka Technical College
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President Anne Weyandt
- Anoka-Ramsey Community College
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President Patrick Johns
- Century College
www.century.edu
President Larry Litecky
- Dakota County Technical College
www.dctc.edu
President Ronald Thomas
- Hennepin Technical College
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Interim President
Ronald Kraft
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President Cheryl Frank
- Metropolitan State University
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President Wilson Bradshaw
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
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President Phil Davis
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