



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

To the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, the Governor and the People of Minnesota

2006-2007
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Educational services and applied research by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system help meet critical needs throughout the state. The system's 32 two-year and four-year institutions serve more students than any other higher education provider in Minnesota, with 240,000 students in credit-based courses each year and another 135,000 in noncredit courses. A growing number of online programs – more than 180 programs and 6,400 course sections now are offered entirely or predominately online – has contributed to the system's enrollment growth and has expanded access to education throughout the state and beyond. The system produced about 33,500 graduates in fiscal year 2006, and more than 80 percent of our graduates stay in Minnesota to work or continue their education.

We are pleased to present the system's special appropriation requests for the federal budget year 2008. This request is in line with the system's strategic plan for 2006-2010.

The strategic plan for 2006-2010 outlines four strategic directions:

- Increase access and opportunity
- Promote and measure high-quality learning programs and services
- Provide programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs
- Innovate to meet current and future educational needs efficiently

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appropriation requests reflect Minnesota's capacity and potential for contributing to solutions for challenges within Minnesota and across the nation, ranging from environmental and rural economic issues to sustaining and growing our business and manufacturing sectors.

Higher education and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, in particular, are a crucial component in the state's success. We are proud to contribute to Minnesota's economic vitality and quality of life. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this request with you and your staff in more detail.

Sincerely,

David Paskach
Chair, Board of Trustees

James H. McCormick
Chancellor

* Term expired June 30, 2006;
incumbent serves until
replacement is appointed
by the governor.