



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

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

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appointed by the governor.

On behalf of the 15-member Board of Trustees, we respectfully submit the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities special appropriation requests for the 2009 federal budget year. These appropriation requests are in line with the system's strategic plan for 2006-2010 as developed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

The strategic plan 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 educational services provided by the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities help meet critical needs throughout the state. The system's two-year and four-year institutions serve more students than any other higher education provider in Minnesota, with 242,000 students in credit-based courses each year and another 140,000 in noncredit courses. A growing number of online programs – more than 200 programs and 8,200 course sections now are offered entirely or predominately online – has contributed to the system's enrollment growth and 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.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appropriation requests reflect the system's capacity and potential for contributing to solutions for challenges within Minnesota and across the nation, including enhancing veterans' employment success upon returning to civilian communities. The requests range from addressing 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 crucial components 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 C. Olson
Chair, Board of Trustees

James H. McCormick
Chancellor