



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

To the Minnesota Congressional Delegation

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On behalf of the 15-member Board of Trustees, we respectfully submit the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's special appropriation requests for the 2010 federal budget year. These appropriation requests are in accordance with the system's strategic plan for 2008-2012, developed and approved by the Board of Trustees, which outlines four strategic directions:

- Increase access and opportunity;
- Promote and measure high-quality learning programs and services;
- Provide programs and services that enhance the economic competitiveness of the state and its regions; and
- Innovate to meet current and future educational needs

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 390,000 students annually in credit and non-credit courses, more students than any other higher education provider in Minnesota. A growing number of online programs – more than 200 programs and 8,200 course sections – are offered entirely or predominately online. This has contributed to systemwide enrollment growth and expanded access to education throughout the state and beyond. The system educates 64 percent of the state's undergraduates, and more than 87 percent of graduates obtain employment related to their fields of study.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's appropriation requests reflect the system's capacity and potential for contributing to solutions for challenges in Minnesota and across the nation, including enhancing veterans' employment success upon returning to civilian communities. The requests range from environmental and rural economic issues to sustaining and growing Minnesota's 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.

Sincerely,

David C. Olson
Chair, Board of Trustees

James H. McCormick
Chancellor