



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

TAYLOR RELIEF FUND FACT SHEET

September 2005

OVERVIEW

The *Taylor Relief Fund* has been set up to assist displaced students enrolled in Louisiana, Mississippi or Alabama colleges who would like to attend Minnesota State University, Mankato, or South Central College in Faribault and North Mankato on a temporary basis.

This fund was created with a gift to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation from Minnesota Timberwolves majority owner and business executive Glen Taylor. He is committing up to \$500,000 to this fund. The *Taylor Relief Fund* is part of the foundation's Katrina Student Relief Fund, which was established to accept contributions for affected students who enroll in the system's 32 institutions.

The *Taylor Relief Fund* is designed to assist about 100 students during the 2005-06 academic year and will be considered an "add on" to any federal financial aid they receive. These funds are part of a coordinated effort by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to accommodate at least 300 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Chancellor James H. McCormick is coordinating these efforts with higher education officials in the affected states and nationally to lend support until affected colleges and universities resume classes.

On Aug. 29, Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, destroying much of New Orleans and many towns in coastal regions. More than 40 colleges and universities in the three-state area have been affected disrupting about 100,000 students, according to the American Council on Education. In the Louisiana Community & Technical College System, three colleges have closed, displacing about 21,305 students. As of Sept. 14, only a few thousand of those students have enrolled in another college in the system. Classes at the University of New Orleans and Dillard University, also in New Orleans, are suspended until further notice. Tulane and Loyola universities have announced they plan to re-open for the spring semester.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To qualify for assistance, students must have been enrolled at colleges and universities affected by Hurricane Katrina. Students will be able to enroll temporarily for the fall 2005 or spring 2006 semesters.

Only students who meet the usual admission requirements of Minnesota State University, Mankato, and South Central College will be considered for admission and financial assistance. Awards will be made as applications are received and considered.

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HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Assistance may include tuition, fees, books, equipment, housing and other education-related expenses. The kind of financial support will vary to best serve each student's needs and to supplement any federal financial aid available to the student. The federal government has indicated it will be flexible in re-issuing federal financial aid already provided to students at their home institutions. University and college financial aid officers or other campus officials will determine the size and type of financial assistance for each student.

Students interested in attending Minnesota State University, Mankato, may call 1-800-722-0544 or send an e-mail to admissions officer Brian Jones at brian.jones@mnsu.edu . Displaced students need only complete an application. The application fee will be waived, and other necessary records, such as transcripts, can be supplied when they are available.

Each student will be assigned an "MSU Guide," a staff member who will assist the student through each step of the registration, housing and financial aid process. Displaced students who attend Minnesota State University, Mankato, may receive short-term emergency grants or loans for transportation costs, clothing and other daily living needs. On-campus housing is available for up to 100 students. Special assistance will be provided to students seeking part-time employment.

Displaced students who want to attend South Central College may call 1-800-722-9359. Students will be guided by Dave Johnson, the college's dean of students. Housing will be available for these South Central students at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ABOUT MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO, AND SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE

Minnesota State University, Mankato, is home to a number of people, including some students, faculty and staff, from the New Orleans and Gulf Coast area. In addition, the university has an established relationship with several historically black colleges in New Orleans for recruiting purposes. The university offers a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs. For more information, go to www.mnsu.edu .

South Central College, which has campuses at Faribault and North Mankato, offers a wide range of one- and two-year post-secondary degree, certificate and diploma programs. Recently expanded from a technical college to a comprehensive college, South Central now offers two-year associate degrees in liberal arts. For more information, go to www.southcentral.edu .

ABOUT MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system comprises 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 240,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 130,000 students in non-credit courses.

For more information or to arrange media interviews, please contact Melinda Voss at 651.296.9443 or at melinda.voss@so.mnscu.edu.