

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Diversity and Multiculturalism

**Date of Meeting:** January 19, 2010

**Agenda Item:** Final Report of Male Access and Success at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Study Group

Proposed Policy Change       Approvals Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring

Information

**Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:**

Members of the Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee asked the staff of the Diversity and Multiculturalism division to review issues related to male access and success in higher education.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Whitney Stewart Harris, Executive Director, Diversity and Multiculturalism division

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

Whitney Stewart Harris will present an overview of the key findings and recommendations of the Male Access and Success Study Group.

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**FINAL REPORT OF MALE ACCESS AND SUCCESS AT MINNESOTA STATE  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES STUDY GROUP**

**BACKGROUND**

In January 2008, the Diversity and Multiculturalism division established the Male Access and Success Study Group to explore the issues faced by males within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The purpose of the study group was to assist the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor in reviewing the current status and related issues of male access and success at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

The study group supports Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Strategic Direction 1, Goal 1.1: Raise Minnesota's participation and achievement in post-secondary education by meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and educational goals.

The study group met regularly to review trend data on college enrollment and graduation, research on male access and success issues, and efforts to provide for the enhancement of male post-secondary enrollment and success. The study group also met with a diverse group of men who have achieved success within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to identify factors contributing to their success.

This report presents the findings of this study group and its recommendations to enhance understanding of the issues males face within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, as well as efforts to increase male participation in post-secondary education.

**Key findings**

Among the key findings of the study group are:

- Minnesota males have lower high school graduation rates than females. These results are most evident for racial/ethnic minority males.
- Minnesota males have lower system participation rates than females in all racial/ethnic groups.
- While students of color are increasing as a proportion of total students, the percent of male students is decreasing in each racial/ethnic group.

- Minnesota males had lower rates of completion than females in both colleges and universities.
- Diverse males who have succeeded within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system display a unique set of personal, financial and familial factors contributing to their success that were not institutionalized in programmatic efforts.
- There is a lack of a comprehensive data pipeline providing specific indicators of male behavior and progress post-high school in Minnesota.
- No comprehensive catalog exists of promising practices promoting male access and success in Minnesota.

## **Recommendations**

To position Minnesota State Colleges and Universities as a national leader in addressing the current dilemma in male access and success in higher education, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Male Access and Study Group recommends the following actions.

1. Provide support for:
  - a. A comprehensive survey of Minnesota K-12 and post-K-12 efforts to increase male participation in higher education using criteria of effectiveness resulting in the recommendation of best practices to colleges and universities
  - b. Research on factors contributing to “male success” within Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and other higher educational institutions
  - c. Research to implement or modify practices that support male educational success
  - d. A systemwide survey and assessment of the effectiveness of current efforts for male success within Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, specifically listing and comparing individual institutional programs
  - e. Continued evaluation of national best practices based on Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education criteria
  - f. Partnerships and programming with K-12 institutions and community organizations to provide:
    - i. Mentoring and enrichment experiences to younger male students
    - ii. Academic enrichment and college preparation services
  - g. Coordinating and promoting research on educational, sociological and psychological factors in men and boys that impact higher education opportunity and success.
  
2. Consolidate data to enhance the P-16 educational pipeline information within the state of Minnesota to track the success of males from Pre-K through higher education.