

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism

Date of Meeting: March 15, 2011

Agenda Item: The Power of YOU Update

Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring

Information

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

The presentation will provide information on the Power of YOU program. This program covers the cost of tuition and fees for two years, or up to 72 credits, at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) or Saint Paul College through state and federal grants and private scholarships. Metropolitan State University provides a Bridge-Scholars program to cover up to \$2,000 in funding for tuition and fees for Power of YOU students who are transferring to Metropolitan State University. The Power of YOU supports as many students as possible based on student need and funds available for the program.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

President Donovan Swichtenberg, President, Saint Paul College

Mee Yang, Power of You Recruiter, Saint Paul College

Nasreen Mohamed, Director, Power of You, Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Reede Webster, Dean of College Advancement, Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The following aspects of the Power of YOU program will be discussed during the presentation:

- Vision
- Support
- Campus operational information
- Bridge scholarship to Metropolitan State University
- Demographics of students served
- Program success
- Lessons learned

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

INFORMATION ITEM
THE POWER OF YOU UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Power of You program was started in 2006, and it allows Minneapolis and St. Paul high school graduates who meet program requirements to participate in college with the benefit of financial support and retention/support services. Over 75 percent of participants are students of color, and 70 percent are from low-income families. Representatives from Saint Paul College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College will present.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

the Power of YOU™

the
Power
of YOU

2006 kickoff



Partners



Where life and learning meet.™



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of YOU

Vision

“Only three percent of Minnesota’s African American and American Indian ninth graders, and five percent of Latino ninth graders, are projected to complete a bachelor’s degree before they are 25 years old.”

Citizen’s League Higher Education Report 2004



What is Power of YOU?

Power of YOU makes college possible for Minneapolis and Saint Paul high school graduates who are residents of Minneapolis or Saint Paul, through federal and state grants and private scholarships.



Eligibility Requirements

- Graduate from a Minneapolis or Saint Paul high school
- Reside in either city
- Meet the criteria to apply for financial aid
- Meet the admission requirements of both colleges
- Meet the family adjusted gross income cap of \$75,000



The "Big 3" *Power of YOU* Goals

- K-12 Reach-back
- Financial Support/Grants
- Retention/Support Services

Overcoming Barriers





Private & Public support

Over \$5.6 million was raised from more than 40 foundations, corporations and individuals.





Delivering the Program

- Recruitment
- Information sessions/Workshops
- Follow-up communication
- Orientation/Registration
- *Power of YOU* welcome events



Support Services

- Retention support
- Advisors assigned to each student
- Tutoring services
- Resource referral services
- Service learning programs
- Summer bridge programs
- “Early Warning System” checks

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of
YOU

Bridge Scholarships

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Metropolitan
State University 



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YOU

Demographics

- 70% of *Power of YOU* students are from low income families.
- Over 75% are students of color.
- The majority of the students were underprepared students.



Compelling Success

Eight in Ten *Power of YOU* students reported that the program influenced their decision to go to college.

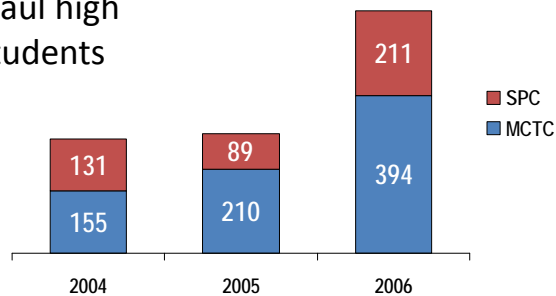


Wilder
Research



Enrollment Impact at MCTC and SPC

Enrollment of
new Minneapolis
and St. Paul high
school students



Wilder
Research



Increase in enrollment

- Enrollment of new Minneapolis and Saint Paul high school students at the two institutions nearly doubled.
- Enrollment of students of color increased by 150%.
- Enrollment of low-income students increased by 115%.



Retention and Academic Standing

- POY students had a fall to fall retention rate of 65% – higher than the rate for the general student population.



Overall Success

- Since 2006, 1,956 POY students have enrolled in college.
- 1,056 students have completed a certificate, diploma, or degree; have transferred; or are still completing their education.



Lessons Learned

- If you change people's perceptions about accessibility to a college education, more will participate.
- If you replicate a program like **TRiO**, a high-contact, holistic model of student support, underrepresented students can be retained at a substantially higher rate.
- Students would have been more academically ready for college if they had believed college was possible during their K-12 experience.

Destination



Thank you for your support

