Strategic Framework for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
March 2013 Status Report

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities play an essential role in growing Minnesota's economy and opening the doors of educational opportunity to all of Minnesotans. To that end, we will:

1. **Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans**

    *   Our faculty and staff will provide the best education available in Minnesota, preparing graduates to lead in every sector of Minnesota's economy.
    *   We will continue to be the place of opportunity, making education accessible to all Minnesotans who seek a college, technical or university education; those who want to update their skills; and those who need to prepare for new careers.

2. **Be the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs**

    *   Our colleges and universities will be the partner of choice for businesses and communities across Minnesota to help them solve real-world problems and keep Minnesotans at the leading edge of their professions.
    *   Our faculty and staff will enable Minnesota to meet its need for a substantially better educated workforce by increasing the number of Minnesotans who complete certificates, diplomas and degrees.

3. **Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value / most affordable option**

    *   Our colleges and universities will deliver the highest value to students, employers, communities and taxpayers.
    *   We will be the highest value / most affordable higher education option.

I. Ensure Access to an Extraordinary Education for all Minnesotans

Project	Status
1. **Redesign the classroom experience and curriculum** to create signature learning experiences such as project-based and problem-based learning.	• Faculty-led "extraordinary education" discussions on every college and university completed. • Student-led "extraordinary education" discussion completed. • The most promising ideas are being implemented by colleges and universities. • Biennial legislative request seeks support for faculty-driven educational innovations. • Strategic priorities to be among the recommendations from the Education of the Future Workgroup.
2. **Develop thoughtful measures of learning outcomes and deliver programs that enable graduates to meet those standards.** Align with national standards, accreditation standards and workforce needs.	• As of January 2013 program learning outcomes are in place for 87% of all programs; on track for 97% of all programs by June 2013. • MnSCU is participating in the Multi-State Collaborative for Learning Outcomes Assessment.
3. **Increase access to baccalaureate**.	• Draft of a "metro plan" is completed which includes proposals for increasing pathways to baccalaureate degrees. Scheduled for a Board of Trustees study session in spring 2013.
4. **Partner with communities traditionally underserved by higher education to improve college readiness, recruitment, and student success.** Create a welcoming and supportive campus environment, faculty and staff competencies, and student support services for all students to succeed.	• Best practices have been identified and are being deploying by colleges and universities. • Collaborating with the P-20 Partnership and "Generation Next" to reduce the achievement gap. • Measurable diversity outcomes and goals established and embedded in presidential performance evaluations.
5. **Increase collaboration among faculty across our colleges and universities to create the best possible courses and learning experiences that can be shared across the system. Redesign our e-education strategy** (pure and blended courses) to improve quality, enhance learning, increase access, increase the number of students served, and reduce the costs of course development and delivery.	• Consultation with students, faculty, chief academic officers, deans, and presidents has begun. • Strategic priorities on e-education, MOOCs, technology innovations, and collaborative course development to be among the recommendations from the Education of the Future Workgroup.
6. **Develop and implement regional and statewide academic plans**.	• Implementation underway by colleges and universities.

II. Be the Partner of Choice to Meet Minnesota's Workforce and Community Needs

Project	Status
1. **Better align P-12 with post-secondary education.**	• Collaborated with DOE Commissioner to develop plans and model. • Legislation being considered in 2013 session to 1) align assessment system with measures of readiness for post-secondary education; 2) provide targeted support in high school for students not ready for post-secondary education; 3) increase opportunities for high school students to earn post-secondary credits earlier; and 4) better align educational plans with workforce needs.
2. **Dramatically increase retention, transfer and completion**.	• Best practices have been identified. • Aggressive goals for increased student success being set. • Implementation of the Smart Transfer Plan underway. • Biennial legislative request seeks resources to deploy predictive analytics statewide and to scale up high impact practices.
3. **Identify Minnesota's workforce needs** and forge region-by-region, sector-by-sector plans to meet those needs.	• Workforce listening sessions completed and workforce needs have been identified. • Alignment of academic programs with workforce needs underway at colleges and universities. • Presidents have begun to develop regional plans. • Sustainable system for tracking changing workforce needs is being developed with the Itasca Workforce Alignment Team.
4. **Enable more people to more easily update skills and prepare for new careers**.	• Expanding Minnesota FastTRAC. • Leveraging Perkins consortium-related efforts to develop academic, career pathways for workers. • Strengthening partnerships with workforce centers. • Collaborating with DEED and Greater Twin Cities United Way on improved models.
5. **Expand customized training** and scale up local solutions to assist businesses in other regions of the state.	• Recommendations being developed by the Workforce of the Future Workgroup.

III. Deliver to Students, Employers, Communities, and Taxpayers the Highest Value / Most Affordable Option by Designing the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System of the Future

Project	Status
1. **Collaborate with presidents and cabinet to re-structure the Leadership Council** to improve consultation, increase the sharing of information and best practices, and advance the strategic framework.	• Completed.
2. **Strengthen and expand the Campus Service Cooperative**.	• Implementation well underway.
3. **Strengthen the MnSCU financial model** to develop a long-term, sustainable financial strategy to ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans and to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs. **Create incentives** to enhance cost-effectiveness, increase quality, promote collaboration and cooperation, and drive desired outcomes.	• Analysis of current allocation framework and financial model completed. • Recommendations being developed by the System of the Future Workgroup.
4. **Create a long-term capital plan** that advances the long-term academic plan.	• Under development for presentation to the board in May 2013.
5. **Redesign the MnSCU organizational structure and processes.** Clarify what responsibilities reside with the campuses; what activities should be carried out in a coordinated fashion; what should be done by the system office. Clarify the roles of presidents in supporting the system while leading their campuses.	• Recommendations being developed by the System of the Future Workgroup.
6. **Improve executive performance evaluation to advance the strategic framework.**	• Redesign of executive performance evaluation completed. • Institutional performance metrics incorporated into executive performance evaluations.