

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism **Date of Meeting:** May 20, 2010
Agenda Item: American Indian Initiative Update

Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring

Information

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

This is a update followed by a discussion by the trustees on recent work on behalf of access, opportunity and success for American Indians. This agenda item was previously on the January agenda, but was not presented at that time due to time constraints.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Whitney Stewart Harris, Executive Director, Diversity and Multiculturalism
David Isham, Access and Opportunity Specialist

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

- The system implemented an American Indian Initiative in 2006 to improve higher education access, opportunity and success.
- Enrollment of American Indians has experienced a slight increase.
- The Office of the Chancellor and colleges and universities continue to work with members of the American Indian communities to develop and implement best practices that support increased higher education success for American Indians.

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

INFORMATION ITEM
AMERICAN INDIAN INITIATIVE UPDATE

BACKGROUND

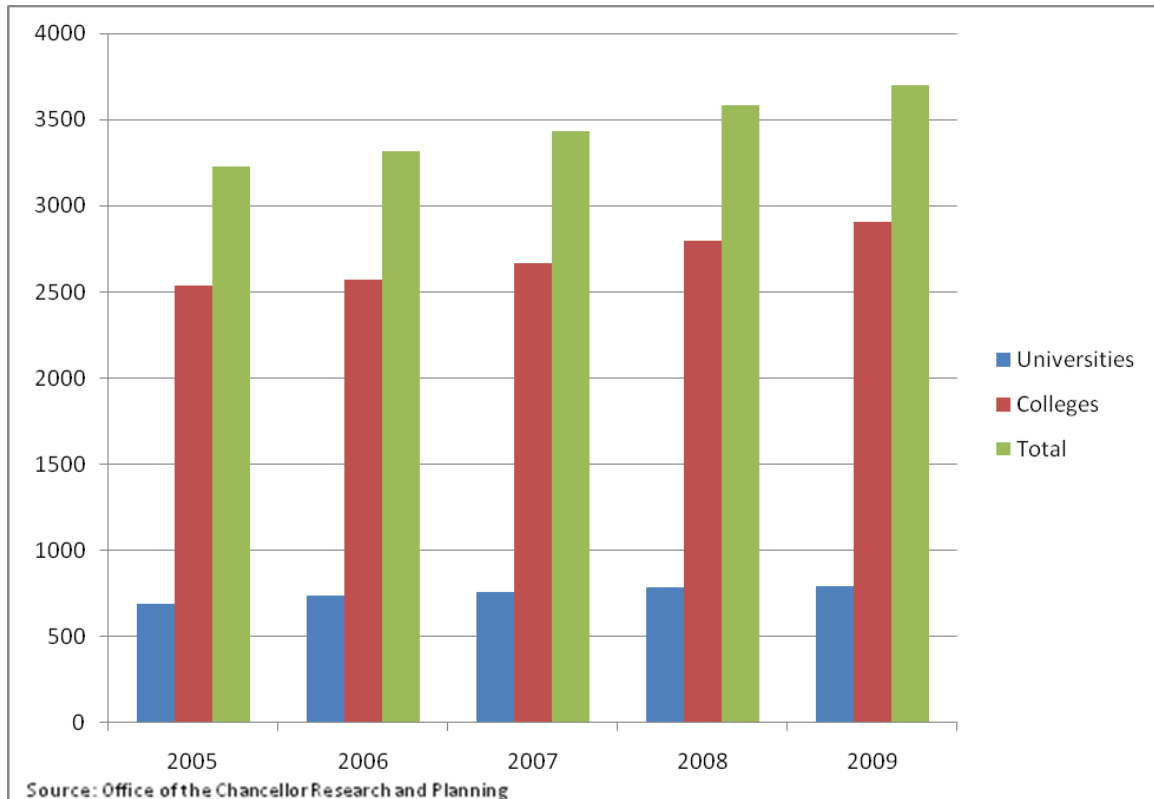
In response to a directive from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees and under the direction of Chancellor James McCormick, the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor and the colleges and universities have been engaged in the American Indian Initiative since 2006. This is another in a series of updates that are given to the Board periodically.

Enrollment of new students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education increased by 22 percent last fall at the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, according to a report presented to the Board of Trustees. These groups include students of color, low-income students and students whose parents did not attend college.

A review of the data from 2005 to 2009 shows a trend of increased enrollment by American Indian/Alaskan Native Students (see graph below).

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Universities	693	741	761	787	792
Colleges	2534	2573	2670	2800	2908
Total	3227	3314	3431	3587	3700

**Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
American Indian Students
Full Year Unduplicated Credit Headcount
Fiscal Years: 2005 through 2009**



Additionally, initial numbers indicate that the total number of American Indians increased by 10.1 percent from Spring 2009 (2492) to Spring 2010 (2743).

Colleges and University Activities

During the period covered by this report, a number of events and conferences at various system institutions have taken place to share information pertinent to American Indian awareness. The following is a partial list:

- Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
 - Celebrated the appointment of Larry Anderson by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees.

- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
 - Offered an Evening of Song and Poetry – an annual event designed to allow Native students a forum to showcase their talents.

- St Cloud State University
 - Hired two American Indian Employees during this past year to fill the Associate Director, American Indian Center and the Planetarium Director positions.
 - Students participated in local conferences. These include the First Annual Power in Diversity conference, hosted by St. Cloud State University, and the Minnesota Indian Education Association conference.
 - Conducted the 17th Annual All Tribes Council Pow-wow.
 - Provided ten scholarships to American Indian students.
 - Is currently planning the 4th annual Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (formerly called American Indian Studies Summer Institute), to be held on the White Earth Nation reservation.

- Minnesota State University, Moorhead
 - Appointed Dr. Donna Brown as Interim Vice President of Student Affairs for Diversity and Inclusion.
 - Held Indigenous People's Education Conference.
 - Held grand opening of the American Indian Research and Resource Center on February 24, 2010.
 - Has a research project underway that will seek to address the disproportionate number of American Indian students attending alternative schools.
 - Recognized 22 American Indian graduates in spring of 2010.

- Metropolitan State University
 - Provided a variety of activities throughout November as part of American Indian Month.

- Bemidji State University
 - Held American Indian Summit: *Indian Education: Yesterday & Today*.
 - Provided outreach to Bemidji Community by providing a community event at a local business, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About American Indians, But Were Afraid to Ask*. The presentation was conducted by Dr. Donald Day and Professor Anton Treuer.
 - Conducted the 17th Annual American Indian Graduation Banquet, recognizing 18 graduates.

- Minnesota State University, Mankato
 - Began organizing an American Indian Advisory Committee.
- North Hennepin Community College
 - Held its First Annual Pow-wow.
- Office of the Chancellor
 - Held a Brown Bag session on Sovereignty, presented by John Poupart
 - Arranged for the presentation by Dr. Don Day and Professor Anton Treuer, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About American Indians, But Were Afraid to Ask*, as part of the Student Affairs/Diversity and Multiculturalism conference in February 2010.

Outreach and Research

The following are activities conducted by the staff of the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor during the period covered by this report:

- Presented the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Systemwide Strategic Work Plan for American Indians 2006-2010 at the Minnesota Indian Education Association conference and the American Indian Summit at Bemidji State University.
- By invitation, participated in the Education Trust, Access to Success meeting.
- Seated as a member of the Tribal Nations Education Committee.
- Met with a representative of the 2010 Census on the importance of an accurate count in Indian country, and explored ways to partner with system institutions.
- Met with Minneapolis Public Schools, exploring ways to better prepare and bridge K-12 and higher education.
- Attended meetings with Native American Community Development Institute to focus on the American Indian Cultural Corridor plans and how Minnesota State Colleges and Universities can play an integral role in the educational component.
- Participated in planning and conducting the 24th Annual Twin Cities American Indian Graduation Banquet, April 2010.
- Met with Chairwoman Erma Vizenor of the White Earth Nation.

This preliminary report is just a sampling of the efforts and activities that involve Minnesota State Colleges and Universities students, faculty and staff.