

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism      Date of Meeting: March 15, 2011**

**Agenda Item:** Demographic Characteristics of College and University Graduates

- Proposed Policy Change       Approvals Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring
- Information

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

This item will include information on the demographic characteristics of state college and university graduates. The presentation will examine how program/majors and award levels vary by graduate demographic characteristics.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Dr. Craig Schoenecker, System Director for Research  
Dr. Whitney S. Harris, Executive Director for Diversity and Multiculturalism

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

Dr. Schoenecker will present and discuss information on the demographic characteristics of college and university graduates.

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

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF  
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY GRADUATES**

**BACKGROUND**

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is committed to increasing higher education access and success for all Minnesotans. The Governor and the 2007 Legislature approved \$22 million in additional resources to support the Access, Opportunity and Success initiative. The system implemented the initiative to improve recruitment, retention and success of underrepresented students. Funds were allocated to the colleges and universities and to three access and opportunity centers of excellence to expand recruitment and support services for underrepresented students in fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

Underrepresented students include three groups:

- Students of Color – American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black and Hispanic students.
- Low-Income Students – Classification includes students who were determined to be eligible for a federal Pell Grant using data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and financial aid award data.
- First Generation Students – Classification includes students whose parents did not attend college based on student-provided data on parental education.

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