

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: April 22, 2015

Title: Spotlight: Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College Launch Gateway to College Program

Purpose (check one):

Proposed
New Policy or
Amendment to
Existing Policy

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring /
Compliance

Information

Brief Description:

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) and [Saint Paul College](#) have teamed with [Gateway to College National Network](#) (GtCNN) to implement a nationally recognized dropout reengagement program. Gateway to College serves young adults ages 16 to 20 who have dropped out of high school or are significantly behind in credits and unlikely to graduate. The program enables students to complete their high school diploma requirements while simultaneously earning college credit toward a college degree or certificate.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Rassoul Dastmozd, President, Saint Paul College
Thomas Matos, Vice President, Student Development & Services
Saint Paul College Student and Gateway to College participant: TBD

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MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

INFORMATION ITEM

**SPOTLIGHT: SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SAINT PAUL COLLEGE
LAUNCH GATEWAY TO COLLEGE PROGRAM**

BACKGROUND

At each board meeting, the board pauses to spotlight students or the work of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on behalf of students. This month's presentation will spotlight a collaboration between Saint Paul College, Saint Paul Public Schools, and [Gateway to College National Network](#) (GtCNN) to implement a nationally recognized dropout reengagement program.

Below is an excerpt from the Saint Paul Public Schools news release about the partnership from Thursday, March 12, 2015 ([source](#)):

Gateway to College serves young adults ages 16 to 20 who have dropped out of high school or are significantly behind in credits and unlikely to graduate. The program enables students to complete their high school diploma requirements while simultaneously earning college credit toward a college degree or certificate.

During this academic year, 52 students are enrolled in the Gateway to College program. Twenty five percent of the 52 students currently enrolled in the Gateway to College program are also taking college level courses at Saint Paul College. Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College have a goal to enroll 200 students in the program over the next three years. Students must meet specific criteria to begin the program and will be dually enrolled in the school district and Saint Paul College until they complete their high school diploma. Tuition and books are free for students, and instructional staff will use innovative methods to ensure students who have previously struggled will succeed in a college setting.

Throughout their enrollment in Gateway to College, students will receive one-on-one advising and support from Teachers on Special Assignment who will act as coaches, mentors, and advisors. The wrap-around support provided by the program keeps students on the right track for success.

Rassoul Dastmozd, President of Saint Paul College said, "Working with SPPS and Gateway to College National Network in this way helps us achieve our educational mission. We want to see more young people on track to succeed here at Saint Paul College and are proud to be part of a national effort to engage at-risk youth in postsecondary education at the College. Providing an early college option for our students is paramount."