



Chair Roger Moe
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 E 7th St, St. Paul MN 55101

November 15, 2022

Chair Moe,

Today, Minnesota is home to the worst educational gaps by race in the country. We also, as a state, recently voted for a new vision for the future—a vision of a unified Minnesota where we invest in each other and in our children for our shared future prosperity. Public higher education must be part of that agenda.

However, our system, the largest in the state and the third largest in the country, faces immense challenges. The next biennial budget will determine what value our state government places in the opportunity for ALL Minnesotans, regardless of who they are and where they live, to access a high-quality and affordable higher education. MinnState needed to develop a thoughtful request that addressed the needs of our institutions in the short-term but also provides a vision for the future. Equity 2030, the goal set out by Chancellor Malhotra in 2019, has provided an opportunity for all MinnState stakeholders to discuss the importance of stabilizing campuses from years of disinvestment while also requesting what we need from the State to continue to grow our economy and provide equal opportunities for a new generation of students.

We encourage the Trustees to adopt the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities FY24-25 budget request.

Investments in campuses, mental health and emergency grants, scholarships, equipment, fully funded tuition freezes, and more are necessary for us to rise to the needs of Minnesota's next generation of students. Our collective work to reach the goal set in Equity 2030 will require a strong partnership with the state. We are fortunate to have an incoming legislature and Governor which largely share our values. The budget request being considered by the Trustees is a vital down payment for the investments required to create an accessible and affordable public higher education system for all Minnesotans. If funded, this budget will reduce roadblocks for students, enhance the quality of education we can provide, and increase opportunities for Minnesotans who have traditionally been excluded from higher education.

Our organizations are committed to partnering with the Trustees and Chancellor Malhotra to secure these necessary investments through advocacy at the legislature and partnering with businesses.

Equity 2030 is not just an organizational framework or a strategic plan. It is a moral imperative laid out in front of us. The futures of our system and our state depend on its success. It is time to secure the state resources necessary to make good on our promise to the students of Minnesota.

Signed,

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Student's United State Chair

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