

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Increasing Nurses in Minnesota

\$1,400,000

Healthcare employers desire a broad range of nurse credentialing to maintain flexibility in the healthcare setting. This initiative will support the expansion of nursing and allied health education programs in Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. System institutions will work to meet the increased workforce demands for nurses and allied health professionals through: 1) expanded nursing program enrollment, particularly for bachelor's degree students, and greater accessibility through accelerated and flexible nursing programs; 2) support for nurse educators to obtain masters in nursing education; 3) development of technologies to support innovative clinical experiences and distance education in nursing and allied health care; and 4) support strategic partnerships with the healthcare industry, the University of Minnesota, the K-12 system, and the workforce center system. The success of this initiative will be measured by the number of graduates from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' nursing education programs as described in each initiative. The initiative will provide increased opportunity for students to enroll in nursing and healthcare education through flexible delivery, including on-line and distance education options.

Academic Innovations/ MnOnline

\$850,000

The Minnesota Online initiative request is to enhance the capabilities beyond the core infrastructure in order to meet the needs of learners and corporate services. The monies would provide for:

- 1) Academic Support for online students at our campuses by providing a strong 24/7 academic support system and services through a company such as SMARTHINKING;
- 2) Strategic Curriculum and Program Planning by using state, regional and national tools and resources. This will enable discernment of best programs and courses to add to the Minnesota Online inventory to serve state workforce needs but also grow the curriculum as part of the business plan for revenue growth for Minnesota Online, includes research and promotion of best practices in revenue sharing models to facilitate providing education to students through an electricity grid model;
- 3) Curriculum Development focused on collaborative and shared programming such as, but not limited to curriculum incentive monies for strategic program needs, shared development and reusable learning objects, and course redesign projects for online courses in the Minnesota Online inventory, especially in general education courses and/or pre-requisite development courses. The majority of the funds would be allocated to campuses for specific curriculum development; and
- 4) Research improvements to the information currently available to students with disabilities in Minnesota Online in order to add information to allow easier access, promote understanding of issues and to provide helpful resources to assist in decision making for students with disabilities, advocates, agencies and K-12 Special Educators and Counselors

Underrepresented Student Success

\$1,000,000

College Transitions initiative represents one aspect of the broader Underrepresented Student Outreach initiative appropriation request presented to the legislature. This initiative focuses on helping students to make the transition from high school to college and providing support services to enable students to be successful during their first two years in college. The initiative will provide 10 grants of \$100,000 each, using an RFP process, to colleges and universities for the

development of "TRIO-like" student support service programs. Programs that expand on existing TRIO programs will be especially encouraged, as this will allow colleges and universities to rely on an existing source of expertise. Proposals will be required to incorporate at least one of the support models that have proven to be most effective- learning communities, supplemental instruction, and intrusive advising. Proposals will also be required to have a "bridging" component, or extended summer orientation for first-generation students.

Management Programs Legislative Initiative

\$500,000

Farm and small business management programs are individualized instructional programs delivered to farm and small businesses primarily at their farm or business site. The funds will support the following:

\$100,000: Programs to Expand Services to Diverse Populations by funding faculty positions to support two new programs for Hmong (FBM) and Hispanic (SBM) populations. Funds would go to colleges offering services to identified populations.

\$250,000: Tuition Subsidy increase for farm and small business owners enrolled in on site delivered management programs.

\$100,000: Instructional Technology Enhancements in instructional delivery to increase service to students and to increase delivery efficiency. Funds will be used by colleges to design, pilot and implement instructional enhancements.

\$50,000: Capacity Building - Initiate pilot projects to support FBM and SBM data base expansion and analysis functions.

IT Infrastructure Enhancements Supporting Academic Programs

\$2,250,000

Initiative funds in support of academic initiatives will be utilized to provide information technology infrastructure and systems enhancements. For the Desire2Learn planned upgrading of the core software and also provide for hardware capacity expansion over the next year to meet student and faculty usage demands. Expanded support will be provided for the first stages of a multi-year effort to establish a formal Security Program for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The first year will focus on projects in the area of Incident Response, Security Practices, Security Technology, Security Management, Risk Management and Security Program Monitoring. Additional programming staff will allow the implementation of policy and procedure changes in academic and business processes as the result of the Business Practices Alignment effort. The efforts to provide a seamless experience for students of multiple Colleges and Universities will require other changes in the core administrative systems, and these improvements will also be supported. The system-wide directory services project will result in a system-wide strategy, structure and implementation effort for the creation of a unique single identity and authentication structure for all students, faculty and staff within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. Increased student load and expanded online services have resulted in significant degrading of performance in our core Information Technology infrastructure causing disruption for students, staff and faculty during peak load times. Significant hardware and system software upgrades are planned that will help alleviate this strain in the near term and planning will be undertaken for a fundamental re-engineering of our core systems architecture over the next 4 years.