



**Minnesota**  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

Background material: **Chancellor Steven Rosenstone's Service**

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## Collaboration as a System

Dramatically increased collaboration among the campuses to better serve students and reduce costs.

- Coalesced leaders throughout the system to embrace a new Strategic Framework to ensure access to an extraordinary education, be the partner of choice to meet workforce and community needs, and deliver the highest value/most affordable higher education option in Minnesota.
- Increased access, affordability, excellence, and service through a strategic planning effort that forged deeper collaborations among colleges and universities to maximize their collective strengths, resources, and the talents of the faculty and staff.

“Under Chancellor Rosenstone, we have moved forward the vision we had for MnSCU over two decades ago.”

– Roger Moe

**Former Majority Leader, Minnesota State Senate**

“Back in 2011 when we were searching for the next chancellor, we wanted someone who would be a courageous transformational leader. We got one in Steven and we told him to put his foot on the gas and keep it there.”

– Scott Thiss

**Former Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees**

“Chancellor Rosenstone is a visionary leader who understands the staggering complexity and the thousands of moving parts in a large system of higher education like ours. He has led us through the setting of a new strategic direction that has inspired people on every campus to become collaborative leaders. Through it all, he has kept his focus – and the focus of our colleges and universities – on one goal: ensuring access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans.”

– Michael Vekich

**Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees**

## Opportunity for all Minnesotans

Championed the role Minnesota State Colleges and Universities play in providing an opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities. Significantly increased the diversity of students, staff, and presidents of our colleges and universities.

- MnSCU colleges and universities serve students from communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in higher education: 62,800 students of color and American Indian students; 50,000 first-generation college students; 92,000 low-income students; 95,000 students who are 25 or older; and 10,500 veterans and service members. MnSCU colleges and universities serve more students in these categories than all of Minnesota's other higher education options *combined*.
- Recruited 21 of the system's 30 college and university presidents, almost a third of the presidents come from communities of color and nearly half of the presidents are women.

"I have been deeply moved by Chancellor Rosenstone's passionate commitment to opening doors of opportunity for every young person. He has brought those values into systemic improvements in schools that will pay benefits for an entire generation and for years to come."

– R.T. Rybak  
Executive Director, Generation Next

"I am grateful for Chancellor Rosenstone's dedication to programs and policies that support military-connected students. Under Chancellor Rosenstone's leadership, MnSCU launched initiatives to address issues of particular concern to student-Veterans, including increased transfer mobility for students, and maximizing credit for prior learning. The cooperative relationship between our organizations is truly unique in the National Guard and higher education, and has resulted in unprecedented academic and reintegration support to our Soldiers and Airmen. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

– Maj. Gen. Richard Nash  
Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard

## Meeting Minnesota's Talent and Workforce Needs

Worked with DEED, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and the Itasca Project to ensure Minnesota has the talent it needs to thrive.

- Aligned academic programs with workforce needs, informed by 58 business listening sessions across the state.
- Helped launch Real-Time Talent, a public/private partnership that allows more informed, market-driven decisions through the Minnesota workforce and education sectors.

“I admire Steven’s passion for excellence in education. He has forged an understanding of the powerful connection between higher education and good jobs.”

– **Mary Brainerd**  
**President and CEO, HealthPartners**

“Steven’s intellect, problem solving skills, and visionary leadership have resulted in improved alignment between higher education and businesses in our state. His transformative leadership has enabled Minnesota to start building the foundation and systems we need for the workforce of the future to support economic development and growth.”

– **Scott Peterson**  
**Chief Human Resources Officer, Schwan Food Company**

“Steven is at the forefront of enabling academic institutions to understand what it's going to take to prepare the next generation to meet the world, especially the world of work. He has applied great energy, intellect and integrity to initiatives at the intersection of higher education and the employer community to better align the hopes, dreams and needs of both. And it's bearing fruit.”

– **Lynn Casey**  
**CEO, PadillaCRT**

“Steven’s work to ensure we have highly skilled workers has been stellar. He has kept our talent development efforts moving in the right direction and at high velocity. He’s an inspiration to all of us engaged in promoting the economic competitiveness of the state and the Greater MSP region.”

– **Michael Langley**  
**CEO, Greater MSP**

## Collaboration with K-12

Partnered with the Minnesota Department of Education to improve pathways to higher education.

- Expanded early college credit through PSEO and concurrent enrollment.
- Aligned assessment; advocated for targeted interventions to improve college readiness.
- Helping lead the call for postsecondary and career plans for every high school student.

“Steven has been a truly collaborative partner toward the goal of ensuring better alignment between secondary and post-secondary in a way that serves students in our state.”

– **Brenda Cassellius**  
**Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education**

## Reduced Costs and Improved Affordability

Held the cost of higher education down by reducing costs.

- Tuition freezes.
- \$39 million scholarship campaign to increase scholarships available to students in financial need.
- Decreased administrative overhead and the system office budget.

“Steven Rosenstone, with his unique set of skills, has moved MnSCU farther than I ever thought possible; perhaps farther than anyone else could have. He has brought real focus on our need for financial stability, on our need for collaboration among campuses, and on our need to make student success our guiding principle. He has raised the performance of our presidents through high expectations and through an extraordinary attention to the needs of our colleges and institutions. He has been an indefatigable teller of the MnSCU story, highlighting how our faculty and staff change lives. His vision for our future should remain in our sights as we go forward.”

– **Alex Cirillo**  
**MnSCU Board of Trustees**

“Chancellor Rosenstone has been a key partner in the philanthropic community in advancing our common goal of building and strengthening sustainable communities.”

– **Kate Wolford**  
**President, The McKnight Foundation**