

Office of Equity and Inclusion

# Minnesota State Equity Scorecard: User Guide and Facilitation Tool

### **Table of Contents**

Minnesota State Equity Scorecard	3
Purpose & Overview	
Background:	3
Audiences & Intended Use of the Equity Scorecard	
Key Performance Indicators	6
Conceptual Background for Minnesota State's Equity Scorecard KPIs	
Equity Scorecard KPI Overview	6
KPI 1: Student Success	7
KPI 2: Compositional Diversity	
KPI 3: Employee Retention & Development	8
KPI 4: Supplier Diversity	
Equity Scorecard Layout & Orientation	9
Reading the Equity Scorecard	
Comparison Groups	12
Appendices	13
Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)	14
Intended Use	14
Frequently Asked Questions	14
Appendix B: Equity Scorecard Information Sheet	17
Appendix C: Equity Scorecard Layout & Visual Walkthrough	18
Appendix D: Introducing & Orienting Audiences to the Equity Scorecard	19
Appendix E: "How To" – Equity Scorecard Conversation Prompts and Guiding Inquir	y Questions20
Initiating Conversation about the Equity Scorecard	20
Equity Scorecard Use Considerations	21

### **Minnesota State Equity Scorecard**

### **Purpose & Overview**

The Equity Scorecard is an instrumental tool for creating greater awareness of, and accountability for, equity gaps across key facets of our institutions and system which are relevant to impacting equity, diversity, and inclusion. The approach includes a holistic view focus on measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which together aim to help campus leaders foster institutional change through data-informed decision making in order to address disparities and close equity gaps for employee and student stakeholders.

**Using this guide:** This guide serves as a resource for understanding and leveraging the Minnesota State Equity Scorecard to prompt inquiry and inform strategic equity efforts.

### **Background:**

Conceptualization of the Equity Scorecard began in 2019. The Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) recognized the need for an integrated approach which utilizes data in a strategic manner to help Minnesota State understand the "health" of our institutions and system from an equity standpoint. The research of the USC Rossier Center for Urban Education (CUE) and their adaptive Equity Scorecard process, Dr. Damon Williams' work on Strategic Diversity Leadership (2013), and the examination of various higher education and private industry scorecard models informed our approach.

In 2020, OEI established a cross-functional working group comprised of system- and campus-level partners from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Legal, Human Resources, Finance, Equity & Inclusion, Enrollment Management, Institutional Research/Institutional Effectiveness, and Information Technology to undertake the development of the Equity Scorecard and corresponding Key Performance Indicators. The first prototype of the Equity Scorecard was brought to fruition in July 2021 and included three (3) Minnesota State rollups: 1) a systemwide rollup (all colleges, universities, and system office); 2) all universities rollup; and 3) all colleges rollup. The work to refine the current prototype of the Equity Scorecard, introduce additional indicators and metrics, as well as produce institution-level scorecards is ongoing and explained in additional detail in the timeline portion of this resource.

### The Equity Scorecard Aims to:

1. <u>Increase Transparency:</u> Increase institutional responsibility, monitoring, and accountability necessary to realize greater equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- Make Disparities Evident: Provide clear and readily understandable picture of disparities for key dimensions of equity, diversity, and inclusion relevant to colleges and universities.
- 3. <u>Facilitate Improvement Process:</u> Inform strategy and facilitate process of holistically identifying areas of need, opportunities for improvement, and existing areas of success pertinent to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- 4. <u>Encourage Inquiry & Targeted Action:</u> Prompts further questions about the conditions and factors which impede equitable outcomes for all students and employees.
- 5. <u>Support Assessment:</u> Assess progress in, and impact of strategy on, pursuing equity, diversity, and inclusion objectives and goals.
- 6. <u>Demonstrate Commitment:</u> Demonstrating commitment to equity in student and employee outcomes and experiences.

### **Audiences & Intended Use of the Equity Scorecard**

The system-level Equity Scorecard rollups are available to all Minnesota State employees and students. Key audiences for the Equity Scorecard include:

- Leadership teams across Minnesota State's colleges, universities, & system office
- Leadership of stakeholders & constituent groups (e.g. student organizations, bargaining units)
- Stakeholders and partners working to advance equity at Minnesota State

### **Equity Scorecard Use Considerations**

- Facilitating Campus Level Discussion Using System Level Scorecards: While the campus level scorecards are forthcoming, the two rollup Equity Scorecards for all universities and all colleges can certainly be used to initiate and inform conversations about addressing equity gaps that we know that exist across the system and likely for your stakeholders as well.
- 2. <u>Establishing Baselines:</u> We must be able to demonstrate what are the current (baseline) equity gaps in order to determine where we are and where do need to go.
- 3. <u>"Admiring the Problem"</u>: We do not want to see the gaps and simply admire the problem. We need to consider how we can impact the gaps moving into an action plan.
- 4. <u>Scorecard Will Not Diagnose the Source of Equity Gaps:</u> The Equity Scorecard serves as mechanism to look inward and prompt institutions to consider why equity gaps exist

- and how they can be addressed. This is a tool to inform and help drive examination of disparities. It is not a tool that will diagnose what is shaping the disparity patterns.
- 5. <u>No One Cause of Equity Gaps:</u> There is no one metric we can look at and be able to pinpoint the cause of inequity. The scorecard should prompt a deeper dive to examine how our institution's practices, processes, policies, pedagogy, and engagement of stakeholders contribute to the disparate outcomes. What institutional factors may be shaping the disparities we see?
- 6. The Equity Scorecard Does Not Seek to Compete with Existing Efforts: Please note, it is important to consider what efforts, strategies, and tools are already in place at your institution for assessing and monitoring disparities in stakeholder outcomes and experiences. The Equity Scorecard does not seek to compete or outright supplant your existing efforts. The scorecard may offer insight into how existing efforts may be enhanced by placing an emphasis on holistically viewing equity and inclusion as well as disaggregating data.

"THERE IS NO ONE METRIC WE CAN LOOK AT AND BE ABLE TO PINPOINT THE CAUSE OF INEQUITY. THE SCORECARD SHOULD PROMPT A DEEPER DIVE TO EXAMINE HOW OUR INSTITUTION'S PRACTICES, PROCESSES, POLICIES, PEDAGOGY, AND ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTE TO DISPARATE OUTCOMES."

### **Key Performance Indicators**

Broadly speaking, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are the critical aspects by which we can assess and monitor progress toward a specific objective or organizational priority. KPIs enable leaders to focus on strategic and operational measures that are essential for advancing or impacting outcomes.

### **Conceptual Background for Minnesota State's Equity Scorecard KPIs**

Advancing equity is often discussed in the context of student success outcomes and rightly so, given education is central to the mission of Minnesota State. You will notice, however, that the indicators and metrics on the Minnesota State Equity Scorecard focus beyond student success. Our collective equity improvement efforts require a holistic and multifaceted approach for understanding equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We know that student success is shaped by several interlinked factors and facets of our institutions and the system. For example, disparities in student success are tied to the compositional diversity of faculty and staff, the professional development of all employees, the campus climate experienced by our students and colleagues, in addition to other factors. For the Equity Scorecard there is a key overarching aim for holistically considering how greater equity is realized and brought to fruition across multiple fronts. This is yet another reason why each of the KPIs represented are conceptually and intrinsically linked to one another.

It is important to note that we recognize the need to examine inequities for other identities beyond race, gender, and socioeconomic status. For example, ability status, LGBTQ+ identity, gender beyond binary M/F, veterans, different ethnicities, and others all warrant attention. Collectively, the Minnesota State system and the Equity Scorecard working group are examining considerations related to data privacy as well as gaps in our systemwide data collection practices for various groups.

### **Equity Scorecard KPI Overview**

Due to the scale of our system and the complex nature of equity work, it necessitated taking a phased approach to this work. Key considerations included: fostering understanding around basic principles, key terms, and tenants of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI); building capacity to engage in conversations tied to equity, at both an individual and organizational level; acclimating stakeholders to equity-minded data disaggregation; and examining our data infrastructure and data needs.

#### **Minnesota State Equity Scorecard**

The Minnesota State Equity Scorecard focuses on six (6) KPIs, two (2) of which are still in development. The KPIs include:

**KPI 1: Student Success** 

**KPI 2: Compositional Diversity** 

KPI 3: Employee Retention and Development

**KPI 4: Supplier Diversity** 

KPI 5: Equity Strategy & Action (in development)

KPI 6: Campus Climate (in development)

For several of the KPIs we've leveraged existing and readily available Minnesota State data. The difference for the Equity Scorecard, however, is that we are focusing on disparities between groups and subsequent progress toward closing equity gaps and realizing greater equity across multiple interlinked facets.

As noted above, KPIs 5 and 6 are still in development with anticipated integration into the Equity Scorecard in the coming years.

### **KPI 1: Student Success**

Ensuring our students succeed, regardless of their career path, degree/certificate program, or entry point into our colleges and universities is central to the mission of Minnesota State. When our students succeed, our communities and the economy of Minnesota prospers.

KPI 1 is centered on identifying equity gaps for key indicators of academic success in efforts to improve the learning & outcomes of students. This indicator builds off the current student success metrics that our system generates annually and is an established practice of measuring outcomes through Persistence, Retention, & Completion (PRC) rates.

### **KPI 2: Compositional Diversity**

As Minnesota State's student body continues to diversify, it is important to have a workforce that reflects and understands the identities and experiences of our students. Representation and richness in diversity helps foster a sense of belonging, inclusion, community, and brings with it varying perspectives and experience that are beneficial to the success of students and employees.

KPI 2 measures student and employee racial demographics and trends in order to identify disparities between faculty/student and staff/student demographic composition. Additionally, KPI 2 highlights various aspects of employee diversity to identify potential representational disparities across our different employee groups.

### **KPI 3: Employee Retention & Development**

The ability of institutions to retain their employees, particularly employees from marginalized communities, shapes the college's or university's compositional diversity, as well as the experiences and outcomes of employee and students. The ability to retain employees can result from many factors, including (but not limited to) climate and culture, opportunities for advancement and development, salary/benefits, options for flexible work environments, job markets opportunities, and more.

KPI 3 is a new metric for Minnesota State and aims to assess our institutional ability to retain employees & support their development needs, with particular focus on diverse/marginalized populations. Minnesota State must be poised to not only attract talent, but also retain our employees and support their professional development needs.

### **KPI 4: Supplier Diversity**

Minnesota State's footprint spans 47 distinctive communities and is woven into the economic, social, and cultural fabric of Minnesota. A <u>recent report</u> found that in FY2017 Minnesota State contributed \$8.0 billion to Minnesota's economy, which included \$4.1 billion direct and \$3.9 billion indirect and induced spending. Our commitment to equity extends to our procurement practices and supports our goal of Equity 2030. Inclusive and equitable procurement directly impacts our local economy and provides economic opportunity for underrepresented communities. Furthermore, inclusive procurement helps elevate Minnesota State as a viable pathway to college for communities that have historically had a low proportion of their population with higher education credentials.

KPI 4 provides a mechanism to increase accountability for the betterment of our supply chain and ensures that our spending practices match the values of Minnesota State and our commitment to Equity 2030.

Additionally, procurement processes that are more inclusive and equitable helps build in roads and bridges to the communities across the state and region. Those connections and relationships create greater awareness of colleges and universities, which can also create opportunity for recruiting future students and employees from diverse and underrepresented communities.

### **Equity Scorecard Layout & Orientation**

This section provides a brief overview of the Equity Scorecard's layout. The two visualizations (Figures 1 &2) below assist in orienting the reader to the scorecard.

Beginning at the top of each Equity Scorecard page, the aggregation level is displayed (Box A, Figure 1), followed by the Title of the Key Performance Indicator (Box B, Figure 1). Each Key Performance Indicator contains between one (1) and five (5) metrics (Box C, Figure 1).

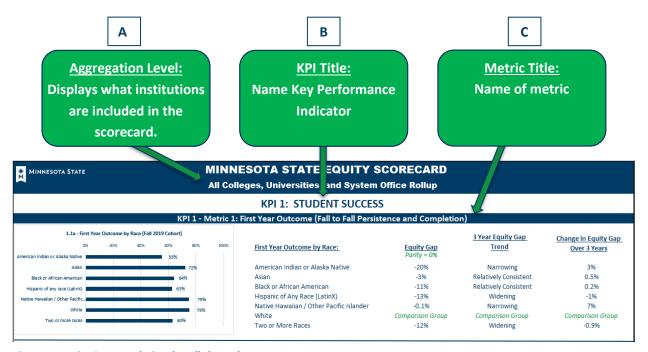
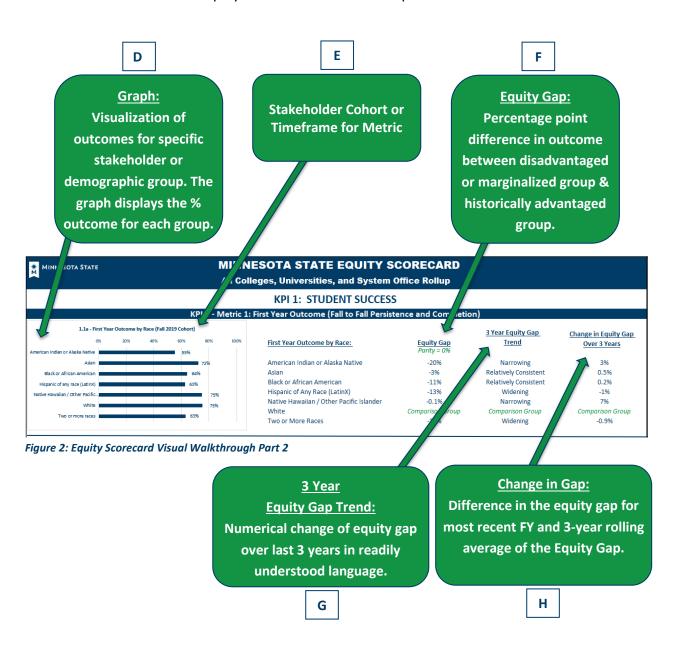


Figure 1: Equity Scorecard Visual Walkthrough Part 1

Please see next page for additional layout information and Figure 2.

On the left side of each metric the data is represented in a graph format and disaggregated by various characteristics (Box D, Figure 2). Each graph includes the time period or cohort year displayed at the top of the graph (Box E, Figure 2). A table is included to the right of each graph and displays the corresponding equity gaps (Box F, Figure 2), trends (Box G, Figure 2), and change over time for each group (Box H, Figure 2).

Terms and definitions are displayed at the end of each respective KPI.



### **Reading the Equity Scorecard**

This section offers guidance on how to read the information provided on the Equity Scorecard. Below, Figure 3 provides a couple of examples of how to read the Equity Scorecard.

There is a sizable disparity in the outcome of Black students relative to the comparison group, White students. The equity gap has been consistent in recent years, with marginal improvement.

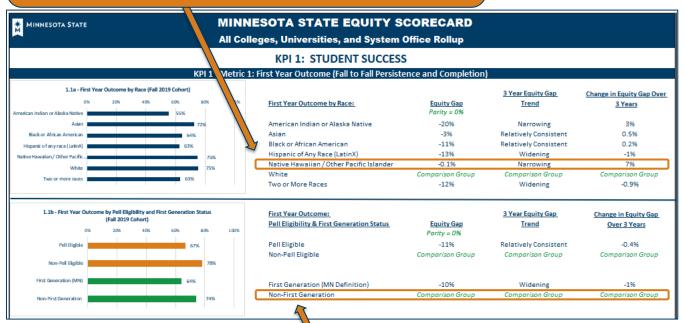


Figure 3: Visual outline for reading the Equity Scorecard

There is a sizable disparity in the outcome of First-Generation students relative to the comparison group, Non-First Generation students. The equity gap gotten worse in recent years, with no improvement.

### **Comparison Groups**

For several of the KPIs, the racial category of White and/or male is set as the comparison group for calculating equity gaps. For this iteration of the Equity Scorecard, the white and/or male as the reference point for two primary reasons: 1) To acknowledge the long-standing history of exclusionary practices in higher education and larger North American society; and 2) To maintain consistency for measuring equity gaps across multiple indicators and institutions.

### 1. Exclusionary Practices

Historically, the formation of social-economic structures and institutions of higher education were built to serve economic and social prosperity for white heteronormative men and the white race, collectively. Higher education has a long history of excluding and underserving students who are not White, male, or affluent. Moreover, students [and employees] of color pay a cultural tax as a result of being burdened by legacies of social and educational discrimination (Dowd & Bensimon). Unfortunately, these legacies continue to have a profound impact on educational outcomes in addition to the ongoing policies, practices, and procedures which are contributing to the equity gaps we see. Finally, by setting White and/or male as the comparison group, we *are not* implying that White/male is the "standard" by which other identities and groups should assimilate, nor is it the ceiling for outcomes and opportunities.

### 2. Consistency in Measurement

By setting White and/or male as the comparison group, it enables our system to maintain consistency in our measurements across several different indicators and across institutions. It also ensures that we collectively have the same reference point when discussing equity gaps in order to minimize confusion or misunderstanding. In other words, we are all "speaking the same language" and will not get mired down by referencing different points which can quickly derail the conversation.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Appendix B:** Equity Scorecard Information Sheet

Appendix C: Equity Scorecard Layout Visual Walkthrough

Appendix D: Introducing & Orienting Audiences to the Equity Scorecard

**Appendix E:** "How To" - Equity Scorecard Conversation Prompts & Guiding Inquiry Questions

### **Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Intended Use**

This appendix serves as supplemental information for the Minnesota State Equity Scorecard. This list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) should not be considered exhaustive or comprehensive. This appendix will be updated on an ongoing basis, so feedback is encouraged and welcomed.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### 1. Q: What was the genesis of the Minnesota State Equity Scorecard?

Conceptualization of the Equity Scorecard began in 2019. The Board of Trustees, Chancellor, and Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) recognized the need for an integrated approach which utilizes data in a strategic manner to help Minnesota State understand the "health" of our institutions and system from an equity standpoint. The research of the USC Rossier Center for Urban Education (CUE) and their adaptive Equity Scorecard process, Dr. Damon Williams' work on Strategic Diversity Leadership (2013), and the examination of various higher education and private industry scorecard models informed our approach.

### 2. Q: How often will the Equity Scorecard be updated? Will additional indicators be added?

The Equity Scorecard will be updated annually, at the beginning of each Fiscal Year (July). As the need for additional metrics and indicators evolve, so too will the Equity Scorecard. Refining indicators and/or adding additional metrics will be undertaken by the Equity Scorecard working group. New indicators/metrics or refinements will be vetted through various channels prior to being formally adopted with every annual update.

### 3. Q: When will individual college/university Equity Scorecards become available?

In partnership with System Office IR and IT, the Office of Equity and Inclusion is in the process of building the data and technology infrastructure necessary to render institution-level Equity Scorecards. Anticipated availability date is Spring, 2022.

### 4. Q: How will the Equity Scorecard be used?

The Equity Scorecard is designed develop awareness of equity gaps across varying measurable areas, with a specific focus on fostering institutional change through data-informed decision making to address disparities and close equity gaps. The Equity Scorecard seeks to prompt our leaders and stakeholders to meaningfully consider how equity and inclusion can be strategically and practically advanced. Using the Equity Scorecard as a tool, leaders can integrate and normalize strategies to advance equity in outcomes while monitoring progress towards equity and creating greater accountability.

### 5. Q: How will data privacy be handled? Who will have access to the underlying data?

As the system office team continues to develop the campus level scorecard, we prioritize the importance and need for protecting the anonymity and confidentiality of our stakeholders and constituents. Protecting the identify-ability of employees and students is a priority for any data-informed effort. The system office team will work determine how to share information where there are small counts for a given outcome for demographic group in a responsible manner.

### 6. Q: Why is "White" and/or "Male" set as the comparison group for some indicators?

For this iteration of the Equity Scorecard, we are using White and/or male as the reference point for two primary reasons: 1) To acknowledge the long-standing history of exclusionary practices in higher education; and 2) To maintain consistency for measuring equity gaps across multiple indicators and institutions.

### 1. Exclusionary Practices

Historically, the formation of social-economic structures and institutions of higher education were built to serve economic and social prosperity for white heteronormative men and the white race, collectively. Higher education has a long history of excluding and underserving students who are not White, male, or affluent. Moreover, students [and employees] of color pay a cultural tax as a result of being burdened by legacies of social and educational discrimination (Dowd & Bensimon). Unfortunately, these legacies continue to have a profound impact on educational outcomes in addition to the ongoing policies, practices, and procedures which are contributing to the equity gaps we see. Finally, by setting White and/or male as the comparison group, we *are not* implying that White/male is the "standard" by which other identities and groups should assimilate, nor is it the ceiling for outcomes and opportunities.

### 2. Consistency in Measurement

By setting White and/or male as the comparison group, it enables our system to maintain consistency in our measurements across several different indicators and various institutions. It also ensures that we collectively have the same reference point when discussing equity gaps in order to minimize confusion or misunderstanding. In other words, we are all "speaking the same language" and will not get mired down by referencing different points which can quickly derail the conversation.

### 7. Q: Why aren't other marginalized identity groups beyond race, Pell-eligibility, and first-generation status included?

We acknowledge the need for examining equity in outcomes for other marginalized identities as a critical component to assessing the equity health of our system and institutions. Currently, there are limitations in the availability of data for various identity groups. Understanding this shortfall, the Office of Equity and Inclusion is partnering with system office IR to explore options for capturing additional data points. Furthermore, there are considerations related to data privacy and protecting the anonymity of various protected classes which warrant consideration to ensure that individual students and employees are not compromised.

### 8. Q: What is the Equity Scorecard working group responsible for? What constituent groups are a part of the Equity Scorecard working group?

Members of the Equity Scorecard working group meet monthly and are responsible for advancing Key Performance Indicator (KPI) development, providing subject matter expertise, assisting in strategy development, and working on project deliverables. The working group is comprised of a variety of system office and campus stakeholders from: Academic Affairs and Student Affairs; Institutional Research/Institutional Effectiveness; IT; Human Resources; Legal; Finance/Procurement; Diversity Officers; Enrollment Management; and Statewide Student Associations.

### **Appendix B: Equity Scorecard Information Sheet**

This one page summary provides a succinct high-level overview of the Minnesota State Equity Scorecard.

### **Equity Scorecard Objectives and Aims**

- Provide clear picture of disparities in stakeholder outcomes
- Make equity gaps readily visible & understood
- Encourage holistic understanding of interlinked nature of equity, diversity, & inclusion facets
- Prompt consideration & inquiry of conditions/factors impeding equitable outcomes
- Inform strategies & facilitate processes for identifying opportunities to pursue equity
- Increase transparency in progress towards advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion

### **Key Performance Indicators**

- KPI-1 Student Success: Measures of academic success outcomes
- KPI-2 Compositional Diversity: Representational alignment of employee & student demographic groups
- KPI-3 Employee Retention: Assess ability to retain & support development needs of employees
- KPI-4 Supplier Diversity: Assess diversity in supply chain & public expenditures to support economic growth in a socially responsible & equitable manner

### **Audiences for the Equity Scorecard**

- Leadership teams across Minnesota State colleges, universities, & system office
- Leadership of stakeholders & constituent groups (e.g. student organizations, bargaining units)
- Stakeholders and partners working to advance equity in student success

#### **Initial Considerations & Intended Use of the Equity Scorecard**

- Becoming familiar with disparity patterns and equity gaps.
- Consider the extent of awareness of equity gaps among your stakeholders and leadership team.
- Normalize understanding and engagement of equity-related needs & issues.
- Facilitate discussion of considerations, questions, & concerns that arise for you.
- Consideration of efforts underway to impact equity gaps.
- Prompt inquiry into how scorecard can help facilitate/inform strategies for realizing greater equity.
- Consideration of major challenges & barriers for advancing equity.
- Reflection on how Minnesota State can support your equity efforts & strategies.
- Illuminate concerns or considerations with development of institution-level scorecards.

#### **Equity Scorecards Are Not Intended to Be:**

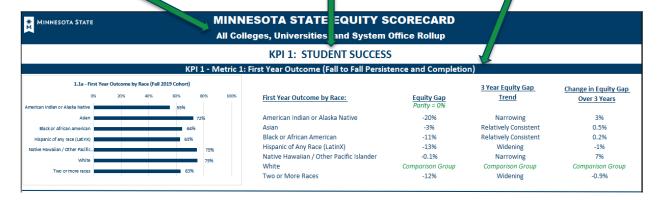
- "Written in stone" instruments for assessing equity
- Diagnostic tools for determining definitive or "root causes" of equity gaps

### **Appendix C:** Equity Scorecard Layout & Visual Walkthrough

Aggregation Level:
Displays what institutions
are included in the
scorecard.

<u>KPI Title:</u>
Name Key Performance
Indicator

Metric Title:
Name of metric



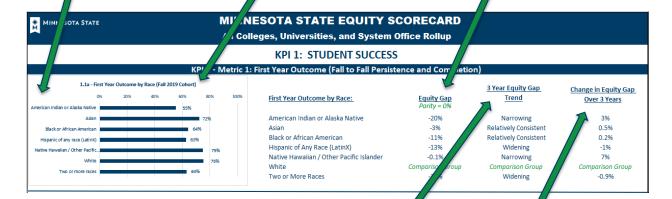
### **Graph:**

Visualization of outcomes for specific stakeholder or demographic group. The graph displays the % outcome for each group.

Stakeholder Cohort or Timeframe for Metric

#### **Equity Gap:**

Percentage point difference in outcome between disadvantaged or marginalized group & historically advantaged group.



### 3 Year

Equity Gap Trend:
Numerical change of equity gap
over last 3 years in readily
understood language.

### **Change in Gap:**

Difference in the equity gap for most recent FY and 3-year rolling average of the Equity Gap.

## <u>Appendix D</u>: Introducing & Orienting Audiences to the Equity Scorecard

This section offers guidance on how to introduce the Equity Scorecard to your colleagues and constituents, in efforts to help orient them and build understanding of the scorecard.

Please note, the orientation to the Equity Scorecard may take 30 to 45 minutes.

### **Steps for Orienting Audiences to the Equity Scorecard**

- 1. Before sharing the Equity Scorecard with your audience, distribute the Equity Scorecard Information Sheet (Appendix B).
- 2. Discuss with the audience the following foundational information:
  - a. Purpose of the Equity Scorecard
  - b. Origin of the Equity Scorecard
  - c. Structure of the Equity Scorecard
  - d. What are the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- 3. Distribute the Equity <u>Scorecard Layout Walkthrough Visual</u> (<u>Appendix C</u>) to the audience. Alternatively, the visual can be projected on to a screen or shared on videocall. This resource will help orient your group to layout of the scorecard and introduce to them to key elements for "reading" the scorecard. Have colleagues review the visual and walk through it as a group.
- 4. Share the Equity Scorecard with your group (project on to screen or hardcopy). Walk through the Equity Scorecard with your colleagues referencing the Equity Scorecard Layout Walkthrough Visual handout. It may be necessary to allow time for walking through the entire scorecard at first, before engaging in discussion, in effort to orient your colleagues to the scorecard and create familiarity with the layout.
- 5. Discussing the equity gap patterns observed on the Equity Scorecard certainly part of the orientation process. Appendix E offers some guidance and questions to help facilitate discussion of the Equity Scorecard.

# **Appendix E: "How To" – Equity Scorecard Conversation Prompts and Guiding Inquiry Questions**

The Equity Scorecard aims to prompt consideration of the disparate outcomes of your students and employees, in efforts to encourage meaningful conversation between you and your colleague's about how the disparities can be addressed and narrowed. Below, you will find a set of questions which can help facilitate your conversations about the patterns presented in the Equity Scorecard.

### In facilitating use of the Equity Scorecard you are encouraged to:

- Begin conversations from a place of inquiry about what the scorecard is conveying, what do colleague's notice, and what questions come up for them.
- First seek to understand the equity gap patterns and avoid the common initial response of "finger pointing" and allocating blame for the disparities.
- Recognize that developing an understanding of the equity gaps and determining impactful approaches for addressing disparities will not happen in one conversation.
- Introduce the Equity Scorecard to your colleagues and walk them through the "Equity Scorecard Orientation Guide" (Appendix D).

### **Initiating Conversation about the Equity Scorecard**

The following questions offer some starting points for your conversations about becoming familiar with the Equity Scorecard, observing equity gap patterns, and beginning to meaningfully consider how your college or university can undertake efforts to bring about greater equity.

#### **Consideration Questions:**

- 1. In looking at the information presented for a given KPI (Key Performance Indicator) and metric what do you notice?
  - a. What patterns do you observe?
- 2. What comes up for you and your group when looking at the KPI's and differing outcome patterns across groups?
  - a. What questions come up for you and your colleagues?
- 3. How familiar or aware do you think your colleague's (leaders, stakeholders, and constituents) are with the disparate outcomes and equity gaps for student success?
- 4. How would you go about sharing this information with your colleague's?

### **Addressing Equity Gap Inquiry Questions**

- 1. How does the institution shape, contribute to, exacerbate, or mitigate equity gaps?
  - a. What is the institution's role?
- 2. What existing strategies, initiatives, and efforts at your campus are tied advancing equity or may impact equity gaps observed for a given KPI?

For example: In looking at Student Success metrics, consider what strategies, undertakings, and continuous improvement processes already exist that aim to can improve student academic outcomes? Is there an intentional focus on equity in outcomes of these efforts?

Examples of Improvement Efforts: Academic Program Review, Strategic Enrollment Management, Accreditation (e.g. HLC) related improvement processes, Equity by Design, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Curriculum trainings, professional development, assessment of student learning, student life programming, student support service efforts (e.g. advising).

- 3. Are the existing strategies, initiatives, and efforts impactful for narrowing equity gaps?
  - a. What else could be done to make these efforts more effective?
- 4. Consider discussing with stakeholder groups what are potential opportunities from a particular group's perspective for advancing equity? In particular, what challenges that impede equity in student success
  - a. Follow up questions and consideration, what are you and your colleagues willing to take on or focus on to address disparity patterns observed on the Equity Scorecard?
- 5. What are some potential strategies and efforts that could be introduced to address equity gaps observed?
- 6. As a corollary to existing strategies and efforts does your current strategic plan or planning efforts include equity focused elements that align to the Equity Scorecard KPI's?

### **Equity Scorecard Use Considerations**

<u>Facilitating Campus Level Discussion Using System Level Scorecards</u>: While the campus level scorecards are forth coming, the two rollup Equity Scorecards for all universities and all colleges, can certainly be used to initiate and inform conversations about addressing equity gaps that we know that exist across the system and likely for your stakeholders as well.

#### **Minnesota State Equity Scorecard**

<u>Establishing Baselines:</u> We must be able to demonstrate what are the current (baseline) equity gaps in order to determine where we are and where do need to go.

<u>"Admiring the Problem":</u> We do not want to see the gaps and simply admire the problem. We need to consider how we can impact the gaps.

<u>Scorecard Will Not Diagnose the Source of Equity Gaps:</u> The equity scorecard serves as mechanism to look inward and prompt leaders to consider why equity gaps exist and how they can be addressed. This is a tool to inform and help drive examination of disparities. It is not a tool that will diagnose what is shaping the disparity patterns.

**No One Cause of Equity Gaps:** There is no one metric we can look at and be able to pinpoint the cause of inequity. The scorecard should, prompt a deeper dive to examine how our institution's practices, processes, policies, pedagogy, and engagement of stakeholders contribute to the disparate outcomes. What institutional factors may be shaping the disparities we see?

Scorecard Does Not Seek to Compete with Existing Efforts: Please note, it is important to consider what efforts, strategies, and tools are already in place at your institution for assessing and monitoring disparities in stakeholder outcomes and experiences. The Equity Scorecard seeks to compliment existing efforts taking place on your campus and across the system. The scorecard may offer insight into how existing efforts may be enhanced by placing an emphasis on holistically viewing equity and inclusion as well as disaggregating data.

Minnesota State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator.



30 East 7th Street, Suite 350 | St. Paul, MN 55101-7804 651-201-1800 | 888-667-2848

www.MinnState.edu/equity

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. To request an alternate format, contact Human Resources at 651-201-1664. Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.