

April 10, 2014

TO: All students

FROM: Presidents and Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

SUBJECT: *Charting the Future* for Student Success

We need your help.

By the end of the decade, three out of four careers in Minnesota will require some education beyond high school. That means Minnesota needs you – and your skills and talents – more than ever before.

The question is: how are we going to make sure our state colleges and universities continue preparing the best educated and most talented graduates?

You've already told us about the future you'd like to see:

- Reduce the cost of attending our colleges and universities.
- Speed up the time it takes to graduate.
- Receive credit for prior learning.
- Improve the ability to transfer seamlessly across colleges and universities.
- Protect the uniqueness of each of our campuses.

Every one of these ideas made it into the recommendations in *Charting the Future*, a student success effort, which was drafted with input from over 5,000 students, faculty, and staff. We believe that *Charting the Future* gives us our best shot at turning the possibilities you'd like to see into reality.

Charting the Future is fundamentally about ensuring access to an affordable and extraordinary education. It's about meeting our commitments to you and to Minnesota. It's not a way to centralize the decision-making process or grow the system office or choose which campuses to grow and which campuses to close.

Students helped craft the six recommendations. As we move forward to translate the recommendations into specific actions, students are helping to guide our work. Each of the eight campus-led implementation teams includes students, faculty, and staff.

- Four of the teams will be launched in Spring 2014: Student Success, Diversity, Comprehensive Workplace Solutions, and System Incentives and Rewards.
- An additional four teams will launch in Fall 2014: Academic Planning and Collaboration, Competency Certification and Credit for Prior Learning, Education Technology, Information Technology Systems Design.

One of the primary responsibilities of each team is to communicate and engage with students throughout the entire process. Each team will reach out to hear what you have to say. They will

work closely with your student associations to co-develop the best methods to actively engage with students. Teams will send regular email and newsletter updates, and also host focus groups and one-on-one student interviews to get timely and honest feedback. Everyone understands that a student success effort like *Charting the Future* is irrelevant without ongoing student participation. Again, we need your help.

Charting the Future's success depends on our ability to work together and talk to each other. We will provide regular updates through emails and through the website:

www.mnscu.edu/chartingthefuture.

We are committed to being open and listening to you, and we can't do this without you. The implementation teams need your ideas, questions, concerns, and personal stories of success so we're asking you to email MyIdeas@so.mnscu.edu. **Let #ChartingTheFuture be a dialogue about what we can do together to continue graduating the best educated and most talented leaders.**