

MSCSA 2010-11 Annual Report



What do you get when you mix together the rising cost of tuition, an unstable state outlook, and concerned college students?

Effective student advocacy — that's what!

In a year filled with unfavorable budget predictions and a looming fear that students would once again bear most of the brunt of state disinvestment in higher education in the form of tuition hikes, I could not be more proud to have led a group of college students that weren't ready to go down without a fight.

Minnesota students hold a strong tradition of getting involved at all levels of advocacy, and this year was no different. In fact, students went above and beyond, registering more voters than they had in the previous election cycle and rallying in large numbers at the state capitol. In addition, they kept their voices strong as they worked through policy and budget decisions happening on their respective campuses. Because of this unity, MSCSA was able to influence important legislation around tuition control and set the stage for steering Minnesota away from backfilling budget gaps by raising tuition. That's one powerful voice.

During my year as MSCSA President, I was most proud of keeping our students involved. It is an achievement I certainly didn't reach on my own. It took the efforts of countless students. Students who wanted better, not only for themselves, but also for the next generation of students. As a recent father, I am especially grateful that Minnesota's students have such passion for future learners.

It is because of the strong student leaders of yesterday, today, and tomorrow that I know Minnesota students will continue to be well represented. Keep up the good fight, MSCSA!

Sincerely,

Travis Johnson
MSCSA President 2010-11



Cabinet Members



Travis Johnson
President
Lake Superior College



Geoff Dittberner
Vice President
Minneapolis Community and Technical College



David Corgan
Public Relations Coordinator
Anoka Ramsey Community College-Coon Rapids

Governing Council

- 1 Jessica Syverson**
Northwest Regional Representative
Northland College-East Grand Forks
- 2 Cody Robinson**
Northeast Regional Representative
Mesabi Range Community and Technical College-Virginia
- 3 Michael Marotta**
North Central Representative
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
- 4 Jeremy Batson**
West Central Representative
Ridgewater College-Hutchinson
- 5 Darleen Tareeq**
Metro North Representative
Century College
- 6 Brad Conley**
Metro West Regional Representative
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- 7 Ryan Lubke**
Southwest Representative
Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Granite Falls
- 8 Sam Potter-Rank**
Metro South Representative
Inver Hills Community College
- 9 Elise Diesslin**
Southeast Regional Representative
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Torfi Arnarson**
Presidents' Group Chair
Pine Technical College
- Renzo Bohme**
Student-At-Large Representative
North Hennepin Community College
- Bob Samon**
Presidents' Group Vice-Chair
Saint Paul College

Platform Committee

- 1 Danny Okstad**
Northwest Representative
Northland College-Thief River Falls
- 2 Kelsey Fuerst**
Northeast Regional Representative
Rainy River Community College
- 3 Stephen Sabin**
North Central Representative
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
- 4 Jim Gilbertson**
West Central Regional Representative
Ridgewater College-Hutchinson
- 5 Deb Nelson**
Metro North Representative
Century College
- 6 Maggie Finney**
Metro West Representative
Hennepin Technical College-Brooklyn Park
- 7 Grant Goerger**
Southwest Regional Representative
Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Canby
- 8 Maureen Wanous**
Metro South Representative
South Central College-Faribault
- 9 Jonathan Kiehne**
Southeast Regional Representative
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Ophelia Mensah**
Student-At-Large Representative
Saint Paul College

Match the member's number to the corresponding location on the map at left.





MSCSA successfully lobbied for a limitation on tuition increases to keep the cost of college as affordable as possible for students and their families. This “tuition cap” was included in the 2011 omnibus higher education finance bill, and prohibited a tuition increase above 4% at the public two-year community and technical colleges in fiscal year 2013.

2011 Legislative Accomplishments

■ Tuition Caps

MSCSA successfully lobbied for a limitation on tuition increases to keep the cost of college as affordable as possible for students and their families. This “tuition cap” was included in the 2011 Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill, and prohibited a tuition increase above 4% at the public two-year community and technical colleges in fiscal year 2013.

When originally passed by the legislature, the bill also capped tuition increases in fiscal year 2012. However, during the government shutdown and before a final agreement was reached by the legislature, the MnSCU Board of Trustees adopted a fiscal year 2012 budget. The Board of Trustees elected to limit tuition increases at two-year colleges to 4% for fiscal year 2012. MSCSA student leaders consulted with administration at the campus-level on proposed tuition increases, resulting in a 3.7% average increase across our colleges.

■ Higher Education Veterans’ Assistance Program

MSCSA helped secure full funding of \$945,000 in each year of the 2012-2013 biennium for the Higher Education Veterans Assistance Program. MSCSA was also successful in removing a sunset provision that would have eliminated the program in 2012, or earlier, if veteran enrollment dropped below 4,000.

The Higher Education Veterans Assistance Program, authorized under Minn. Stat. § 197.585, is run by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and provides funding for 13 Regional Veterans Service Officers to staff campus veteran centers, train student workers, and help veterans understand and process their military benefits. In addition, the campus veteran centers provide a “safe space” where veteran students, faculty, and staff can share experiences and reintegrate together.

■ HEAPR Project Funding

MSCSA students advocated for full funding of the MnSCU system’s Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) request, and helped obtain \$30 million in funds for these important projects. The total HEAPR request was \$110 million, and the \$30 million funded was received as part of a \$131 million bonding appropriation to MnSCU in the Omnibus Capital Investment Bill. HEAPR appropriations fund maintenance and repair to facilities at colleges and universities across the state, ensuring the preservation of warm, safe, dry, and high-quality buildings. The other \$101 million in bonding appropriations will fund renovations and new buildings at colleges and universities across the state.

■ Federal Advocacy

In March, almost 100 student leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., for the first annual D.C. Summit. Students from the Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA) and the Arizona Student Association also attended the event. The D.C. Summit provided students with issue and lobby skills training and opportunities to meet with interest groups, including the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators, The U.S. Green Building Council, and the American Association of Community Colleges. Students also met with members of Congress representing Minnesota and their staff, talking about the important role higher education plays in our country’s future and lobbying for federal priorities. Student priorities included maintenance of funding for Pell Grants and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), and changes to lending disclosure rules that would support state loan programs, such as Minnesota’s SELF loan program.

MSCSA students succeeded in drawing attention to these federal priorities, achieving victories around Pell Grant funding and regulation changes. In April, thanks to the efforts of MSCSA students and many other like-minded students and advocacy groups, the Pell Grant program was spared from cuts, and while the summer Pell Grant was eliminated, the \$5,550 maximum award was preserved in the 2012 budget. Had the House-recommended reductions been made, over 7,900 MnSCU students would have lost their Pell Grant completely and Minnesota students would have lost a total of over \$113 million in federal financial aid.

Later in the spring, MSCSA cabinet member David Corgan was invited to participate in the first anniversary celebration of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act and joined congressional members at the U.S. Capitol to share his story. David was selected after congressional members read a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education and felt David’s story captured why Pell Grant funding should be maintained.

Minnesota State College Student Association

www.mscca.org

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@MSCSA



David Corgan, MSCSA Public Relations Coordinator, was invited to participate in the first anniversary celebration of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) and joined congressional members at the U.S. Capitol to share his story. David was selected after congressional members read a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education and felt David's story captured why Pell Grant funding should be maintained.

2010-2011 MnSCU Policy Accomplishments

■ Course Outlines/Syllabi

MSCSA was instrumental in amending MnSCU system policy (3.22) and creating procedure (3.22.1) around course syllabi to include course outlines for use in credit transfer. Prior to work on course outlines, students faced challenges accessing needed information to prove their prior coursework was equivalent to requirements at their new college or university. The new institution sometimes asks students to provide information about their prior courses beyond what is available in a course catalog. Syllabi could be used for this information, but as a syllabus is the intellectual property of the faculty that creates it, students often could not access a copy or provide it to their new school. Course outlines also provide enough information to determine transferability, but belong to the institution and not the faculty member. Although in use at some schools prior to this year, MSCSA worked with the MnSCU system to better define the use and content of course outlines, and to emphasize their importance within the transfer process.

■ Students First

MSCSA has been significantly involved in the development of student-centered projects within the MnSCU system's Students First initiative. Students First attempts to leverage technology to better serve students statewide through common practices related to course and program searches, applying to school, planning for graduation, course registration, billing and payment, and other shared services. MSCSA participated in work groups in early 2009 to identify these projects, and student leadership worked with the MnSCU system on the design of various components throughout 2010 and 2011.

2010-2011 Conference Attendance

September 2010 Riverland Community College-Austin	98
2010 MN Student Leadership Summit	269
December 2010 Lake Superior College	130
January 2011 Inver Hills Community College	130
Rally Day 2011*	450
March 2011 M State-Fergus Falls	120
2011 Spring General Assembly	258
June 2011 Anoka Ramsey Community College-Coon Rapids	85
TOTAL	1529

*This number is an estimate

2010-2011 Student Involvement and Leadership Development

■ Rally Day 2011

Over 450 MnSCU students descended on the capitol on February 16 to call attention to the need to stop out of control tuition increases. Donning bright red "tuition caps" and carrying signs reading "STOP: Student Tuition is Over-Priced," the students marched from Saint Paul College to the state capitol, where they rallied in support of limits on tuition increases. A tuition cap was ultimately included in this year's Omnibus Higher Education Finance Bill.



Rally Day 2011 received significant media attention, including stories by Minnesota Public Radio and the Star Tribune, as well as coverage on most local television news programs.

■ GOTV Campaign/Election 2010

MSCSA students conducted a massive "Get Out The Vote" campaign in the summer and fall of 2010, exceeding their goal of registering 5,000 new voters. Students from all over the state organized their campuses and spent countless hours tabling, giving class presentations, and talking to their peers to show politicians that Minnesota students vote and Minnesota students matter.

At the culmination of each GOTV campaign, MSCSA recognizes two campuses with the Voter Cup Award – one goes to the campus that registered the most total voters and the other to the campus that registered the highest percentage of its student body. This year's winners were Rochester Community and Technical College, which registered 506 new voters, and Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Luverne, which registered 100 new voters – an astounding 82% of its enrollment!

MSCSA also took to the internet to increase voter engagement. The association worked with the Minnesota State University Student Association and the MnSCU Office of the Chancellor to record video interviews with all three gubernatorial candidates on education issues. Further, MSCSA and MSUSA student leadership created a number of videos highlighting the importance of voting, including a parody of the Saturday Night Live skit "I'm on a Boat" called "I'm Gonna Vote" that got over 1,000 views on YouTube. All of these resources were posted to mnstudentsmatter.org, a voter-engagement website created by MSCSA and MSUSA. The website also included candidate information, a poll finder, voter registration resources, and other information to help students to be active and engaged voters.



2010-2011 Student Involvement and Leadership Development



MSCSA students from across the state testified at State House and Senate committees, sharing their stories about the power of higher education to shape their lives and communities. A diverse cross-section of students were represented throughout the 2011 session, including a high school student enrolled in college through Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), single parents, adults returning to college, and veteran students. Pictured above are Maureen Wanous, Geoff Dittberner and Samantha Potter-Rank.

■ A Curriculum-Based Approach To Leadership Training

Each MSCSA conference has a well-rounded selection of workshops. Our goal is to have at least one professional development, one personal development and one policy workshop at every conference. This year we were able to achieve this goal and the results were evident in the student leaders with whom we worked.

The Minnesota Student Leadership Summit (MNSLS), which is held every October, has the widest variety of workshops and keynote speakers. Featured speakers at 2010 MNSLS included Chancellor James H. McCormick, Comedian Mary Mack, Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, MnSCU Board of Trustees Chair Scott Thiss and Comedian C. Willi Myles.

■ Ace Track

MSCSA created the Advocacy Certificate of Excellence (ACE) track of workshops to provide a curriculum of policy and advocacy trainings for returning student leaders on advanced topics. Topics included "Effective Tuition Consultation," "Legislative Training Game," and "Minnesota and the New Normal." Students who attended every workshop were then awarded a certificate for their dedication to improving their policy comprehension and abilities as an advocate.

■ Star Campus

The Star Campus initiative was born out MSCSA's desire to recognize our most active and involved student senates. Criteria for the award included attendance at MSCSA events, participation in MSCSA campaigns such as our "Get Out The Vote" efforts and bringing students to lobby at the Minnesota Capitol. The six student senates that received the Star Campus award include: Anoka Technical College; Anoka Ramsey Community College-Coon Rapids Campus; Central Lakes College-Brainerd Campus; Dakota County Technical College; Inver Hills Community College; and Lake Superior College.

Thank you!

MSCSA received many generous donations throughout the year benefitting the MSCSA Leadership Scholarship and the James H. and Maryan G. McCormick Endowed Leadership Scholarship Fund. Our 2010-11 fundraisers included: the Leadership Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction, Bowling Tourney, and Leadership Giving Program.

Leader \$1000+

Justin and Jessica Klander
Minnesota State University Student Association

Advocate \$500+

Anoka Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation
Pine Technical College

Supporter \$250+

Dakota County Technical College
Scott Formo
Lake Superior College
Ryan Lubke
Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Rochester Community and Technical College
Stephen Sabin
Darleen Tareeq
W.A. Fisher Advertising & Printing
Maureen Wanous

Contributor \$100+

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Brent Glass
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Jaycob Martin
Jessica Medearis
Dr. Robert Musgrove
Deb Nelson
Dr. John O'Brien
Danny Okstad
Linda Peterson
Cody Robinson
Jessica Syverson
John Ward

Leadership Giving Program \$30+

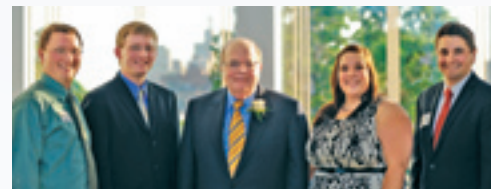
The Leadership Giving Program provides an opportunity for students, alumni and friends of MSCSA to become annual giving members with donations of \$30 or more to the MSCSA Leadership Scholarship Program.

Jeremy Batson
Renzo Bohme
Judy Borgan
Scott Bouduan
Kary Bowser
Richard Brainerd
Amanda Carlson
Kelly Carpenter
Dr. Cecelia Cervantes
Dr. Mary Collins
Nicholas Cooley
David Corgan
Heather Darby
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Gerry Rushenberg
Donovan Schwichtenberg
Ryan Schwingler
Amanda Skorich
Gina Sobania
Dr. Ron Thomas
Stephanie Vikkola
Jennifer Weil

* These donations were received during the 2010-11 fiscal year.



The James H. and Maryan G. McCormick Endowed Leadership Scholarship Fund was created through a partnership of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation, the Minnesota State College Student Association and the Minnesota State University Student Association. Honoring the work of Chancellor James and Dr. Maryan McCormick, the scholarship will provide financial support to students who demonstrate leadership in academics, extracurricular activities and community service. Pictured here are Brad Krasaway, Travis Johnson, Dr. James McCormick, Amanda Bardonner and Justin Klander.

