

Driving Change in Higher Education

@MSCSA



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President Geoff Dittberner shares over 4,000 signatures in support of Pell Grant funding with Minnesota's representative in Congress

Building on Our Success: An Exciting Year of Student Engagement

Another year has come and gone for the Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA), and what a year it has been! The challenges facing students seem to grow each year, especially over the last decade. With those challenges, MSCSA has itself had to grow so we can continue to do what we do best: advocate for our students.

Our staff and cabinet have taken our trainings to the next level this year with a focused effort on providing new and engaging material for student leaders. Each of our conferences empower these leaders with the abilities needed to be effective in our advocacy work and establish them as better professionals. Our students go on to continue to be leaders in industry and in their communities.

Each year MSCSA's growth and success is because of these dedicated student leaders. The members of our boards, student senate presidents, executive officers and senators were responsible for great feats this academic year. These included important tasks such as collecting over 4,000 signatures against cuts to the Pell Grant program, rocking out a "Rock the Caucus" campaign, and working to make sure our college buildings are warm, safe and dry through renovation funding.

During my involvement in MSCSA, the impact that we can have on Minnesota has amazed me. It has been an honor to serve as President and I have the utmost confidence that the future leaders will continue to build on the success of the past and accomplish even greater things.

Sincerely,

Geoff Dittberner, MSCSA President

Student Involvement and Leadership Development

■ Student Leadership Certificate Program

A focal point of our association is to prepare student leaders to excel in their professional lives, in MSCSA's advocacy work and in their efforts on campus. This year, MSCSA debuted an award for students who showed proficiency in all of these areas. This "general education" was designed to empower students with important skills and knowledge that will assist them in their work as a student leader and beyond.

Congratulations to Deborah Albrecht, Shannon Glenn, Douglas Hollen, Margo Hollen, Scott Klein and Phoua Kong for completing the Student Leadership Certificate Program



To receive recognition, students were required to attend five workshops from each of three topic areas – Advocacy, Professional Development, and Campus Leadership – throughout the course of MSCSA events this year. Topics were designated on the itinerary for each conference and tracked by the student.

2011-2012 Conference Attendance

September 2011 Rochester Community & Technical College	101
2011 MN Student Leadership Summit	243
December 2011 Minnesota West-Granite Falls	131
January 2012 Dakota County Technical College	157
February 2012 Advocacy Day	106
March 2012 M State-Moorhead	150
2012 Spring General Assembly	317
June 2012 Century College	96

TOTAL 1301

■ MSCSA Marketing Plan

This year the communications team, comprised of Executive Director Justin Klander, Director of Communications Jonathan Miller and Public Relations Coordinator David Corgan, developed a multi-pronged marketing plan for the association. The goal of the marketing plan is to show key stakeholders that we drive change in higher education. The objectives of the marketing plan are to assist student senates in increasing awareness of MSCSA; to show campus administration that MSCSA provides a consistent, valuable, and professional voice for students; to help key legislators, higher education committee members, and legislative staff better understand the profile of our students; to reflect, magnify, and showcase the passion of our most active members by extending our reach online; and to deepen and broaden our relationships with the media. The process for developing the plan included input from the MSCSA staff and cabinet, as well as several student focus groups. The plan is being implemented over the next three years.

■ MSCSA Rocks the Caucus

MSCSA student leaders collected over 2,000 pledges from their peers to attend precinct caucuses throughout Minnesota. The pledge drive, conducted in partnership with Rock the Vote®, sought to engage students in the political process in their local communities. Student leaders took part in caucus trainings through MSCSA and organized on campus to collect caucus pledges. On February 7, students across the state authored and introduced higher education resolutions and were elected to leadership roles within their precincts. Several students were elected as delegates to their local senate district, congressional district, and their state party conventions as a result of attending a local precinct caucus.



■ Extraordinary Education Forums

In September 2011, Chancellor Steven Rosentsone charged MSCSA with the challenge of creating an initiative to better understand the overall needs of Minnesota's two-year students. To capture student ideas, MSCSA hosted forums across the state collecting student responses to Chancellor Rosentsone's question, "What Will Make Your Education Extraordinary?" To accurately represent two-year students, MSCSA held the forums in every region of the state. The campuses included: Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Ridgewater College-Hutchinson, Rochester Community and Technical College, Lake Superior College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Moorhead, and Northwest Technical College. For campuses that were not visited, an online submission form was used to collect responses from students. In all, over 800 students participated in providing their input in areas such as: academic affairs, student life, college cost, services and facilities. Throughout the process we received wonderful feedback from students and were pleased to see such a great turnout at each forum.



Federal Advocacy

In response to proposals to narrow Pell Grant eligibility during the fall of 2011, students from MSCSA and MSUSA organized at colleges and universities across the state to show student support for Pell funding. Over 4,000 students signed a petition in support of the current program and many also shared stories of how Pell Grants have personally impacted their education. This petition was shared with Minnesota's representatives in Congress. Many of the eligibility changes most detrimental to students were later deleted from the final bill.

Last March, close to 100 student leaders from 25 campuses advocated on behalf of MSCSA's federal priorities in Washington, D.C., at the second annual D.C. Summit. Joined by students from the Arizona Student Association, students learned tactics for effective lobbying and were trained on federal higher education issues. Student leaders spoke to these issues in meetings with organizations such as the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, the American Association of Community Colleges, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Students shared MSCSA priorities with Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar, and staff of all Minnesota members serving in the House of Representatives. MSCSA's federal priorities included supporting an extension of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, preventing the doubling of interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans, increasing the maximum Pell Grant award, and expanding the use of open source textbooks.



MSCSA students meet with Sen. Al Franken during the D.C. Summit

MSCSA supported Senator Franken's "True Cost of College Act" legislation, which aims to standardize financial aid award letters to make them more comprehensible for families. The bill would particularly help in comparing aid packages offered by various higher education institutions. MSUSA and the Minnesota Student Association also supported this legislation, which was introduced in the Senate last spring.

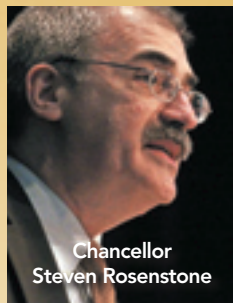
Nationally, the focus around higher education was the debate surrounding the scheduled doubling of subsidized Stafford loan interest rates from 3.4% to 6.8% set to occur on July 1. While discussing this issue on the Senate floor, Senator Franken referenced a visit from MSCSA students during the D.C. Summit, sharing Hennepin Technical College-Eden Prairie student Michael Flannery's experience with the high cost of college. President Geoff Dittberner joined Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, as well as student leaders and elected officials nationwide, on a conference call regarding the Stafford loan interest rates with President Obama.

Just days before the July 1 deadline, an agreement between Congress and President Obama was reached to extend the 3.4% interest rate for one year. President Dittberner and incoming President Steve Sabin, a student at Central Lakes College-Brainerd, were invited to the White House to witness the bill signing. President Sabin said of his experience, "It was a tremendous honor for former President Geoff Dittberner and I to travel to the White House to represent the students of Minnesota. It was such an empowering feeling to witness all the hard work of every college student that spoke up in this country. To be able to see the final step in the bill process was a truly gratifying experience."

MnSCU Policy Accomplishments

Welcome Chancellor Steven Rosenstone

MSCSA students welcomed Dr. Steven Rosenstone as the new Chancellor for the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) system. Chancellor Rosenstone was installed at the Minnesota State Capitol on October 17 in a ceremony that included remarks from Governor Mark Dayton, members of the MnSCU Board of Trustees, and MSCSA President Geoff Dittberner. Early on, Chancellor Rosenstone articulated a "strategic framework" as his vision and plan for the MnSCU system.



Chancellor
Steven Rosenstone

Progress on transfer policy, textbook costs and tuition consultation

The MnSCU Board of Trustees passed a transfer policy that was crafted, in large part, by MSCSA and the Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA). The policy makes the transfer process more transparent by outlining the rights and responsibilities of both students and system institutions. MnSCU also developed a work group to seek solutions for lowering textbook costs and expanding the use of e-texts. Additionally, MSCSA provided students with training on the tuition consultation process. Student leaders across the state reported successful consultation processes with their administration on tuition costs, in light of a four percent statutory limit on tuition increases.

Legislative Accomplishments

Advocacy Day

MSCSA leaders made their voices heard at the State Capitol with the "Fix it First" message to support Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) funding. On February 16, more than 100 students met with their legislators to explain why HEAPR projects are so critical to their educational experience. HEAPR pays for facility repair and addresses the MnSCU system's maintenance backlog. A total of \$20 million in HEAPR funds were secured for the MnSCU system this year. Throughout the legislative session, students maintained a constant presence at the Capitol by meeting with lawmakers, tracking legislation, and testifying at committee hearings.



MnSCU Legislative Outcomes

Aside from the HEAPR dollars, the MnSCU system obtained funding for thirteen line item capital bonding projects at MSCSA campuses. Overall, state support for MnSCU during last session totaled \$132 million (including user financing). The authority for the MnSCU system to issue revenue fund bonds was increased, from \$300 million to \$405 million. This increase allows the system to use bond sale proceeds to pay for facility projects that generate revenue, such as student unions and parking lots maintained through student or user fees. Additionally, the MnSCU system received funding for a leveraged equipment program and was granted the ability to continue operations in the event of a state government shutdown.

The New Home of MSCSA

In March of 2012, after a comprehensive search process, the MSCSA cabinet, boards and staff announced that a building in West Saint Paul was purchased to serve as MSCSA's new headquarters.

The new office space is a next step in furthering MSCSA's mission to advocate on behalf of our membership and develop student leaders across Minnesota. With this new facility, MSCSA will have the training space to put more focus on these core goals, as well as facilitating better communication among students, campuses, and MSCSA.

The new training center will serve as a centralized space where we can better prepare student senate presidents and other student leaders for their important work on campus. The space will allow us to host campus student senate and regional retreats, regional meetings, advocacy visits to the Capitol, and trainings on topics including, but not limited to parliamentary procedure, running effective meetings, recruiting for your student senate, and tuition consultation.

This move wouldn't have been possible without the hours of volunteer work from students. The painting, cleaning, landscaping, carpet removal, etc., showed their investment in this building and saved us thousands and thousands of dollars.



- Property Highlights**
- 6,782 sq feet
 - Lot size 105 ft x 293 ft
 - 40+ parking spaces
 - 3 conference rooms

Cabinet Members



Geoff Dittberner
President
Minneapolis Community and Technical College



Darleen Tareeq
Vice President
Saint Paul College/
Century College



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



Alex Rodich
Treasurer
Inver Hills Community College



Governing Council

- 1 Colleen Kukowski**
Northwest Regional Representative
Northland College-Thief River Falls
 - 2 Alie Klaysmat**
Northeast Regional Representative
Mesabi Range Community and Technical College-Virginia
 - 3 Catie Sabin**
North Central Representative
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
 - 4 Deborah Albrecht**
West Central Representative
Ridgewater College-Hutchinson
 - 5 Randy Bailey**
Metro North Representative
Saint Paul College
 - 6 Brad Conley**
Metro West Regional Representative
Minneapolis Community and Technical College
 - 7 George Mobley**
Southwest Representative
Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Jackson
 - 8 Doug Hollen**
Metro South Representative
Inver Hills Community College
 - 9 Andrea White**
Southeast Regional Representative
Rochester Community and Technical College
- Steve Sabin**
Presidents' Group Chair
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
- Michael Flannery**
Student-At-Large Representative
Hennepin Technical College-Eden Prairie

Platform Committee

- 1 David Herberg**
Northwest Representative
Northwest Technical College
 - 2 Jeff Jakubic**
Northeast Regional Representative
Vermilion Community College
 - 3 Denny Benjamin**
North Central Representative
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
 - 4 Zachary Inselmann**
West Central Regional Representative
Ridgewater College-Hutchinson
 - 5 Phoua Kong**
Metro North Representative
Saint Paul College
 - 6 Pascale Darbonne**
Metro West Representative
Hennepin Technical College-Brooklyn Park
 - 7 Keith Boysen**
Southwest Regional Representative
Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Granite Falls
 - 8 Ryan Newbloom**
Metro South Representative
Normandale Community College
 - 9 Mike Brown**
Southeast Regional Representative
Minnesota State Southeast Technical College-Winona
- Ashley Stutsman**
Student-At-Large Representative
Lake Superior College

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



LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Thank You!

MSCSA received many generous donations throughout the year benefitting the MSCSA Leadership Scholarship Fund! Our 2011-12 fundraisers included: the Steve Sabin Marathon Fundraiser, the Leadership Scholarship Dinner and Silent Auction, Bowling Tourney and Annual Giving Program.

Leader \$1000+

Central Lakes College-Brainerd (Administration, Faculty and Staff)
Justin and Jessica Klander
Minnesota State University Student Association
Lancer Hospitality
G.L. Berg Entertainment

Advocate \$500+

Anoka Ramsey Community College-Coon Rapids
Anoka Technical College
Pascale Darbonne
Robert Erickson
Travis Johnson
Nelson Tietz & Hoyer
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees
Metropolitan State University
Pine Technical College
Take Back College
Wells Fargo

Supporter \$250+

Foster & Brever PLLC
Allegra Printing & Imaging
Laura King
Steven Sabin

Darleen Tareeq
Rochester Community and Technical College
W.A. Fisher Advertising & Printing

Contributor \$100+

Deborah Albrecht
Jim Bohler
Chris Bosquez
Lisa Christenson
David Corgan
Heather Darby
Michael Doyle
Scott Formo

Andrea Hanson
Rachel and Nathan Hanson
Emily Harrison
Kitty Henneman
David Herberg
Roger Johnson
Jonathan Miller

Jessica Medearis
Nang Moua
John O'Brien
John Otte
Alex Rodich
Ron Thomas
John Ward
YMCA Brainerd Staff

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.

Benjamin Alexander	Steve Frantz	Gail Olson
Sandrine Akem	Brent Glass	Linda Peterson
Allyson Bliss	Shannon Glenn	Levi Pederson
Randy Bailey	DeAnna Helget	Landon Pirius
Thomas Berg	Doug Hollen	Pat and Sid Prom
Denny Benjamin	Margo Hollen	Jarred Pohlman
Renzo Bohme	Kyle Johnson	Tim Price
Robert Bourdon	Allie Klaysmat	Tara Saukko
Judy Borgen	Angela Kleinschmidt	Stephanie Serres
Mara Brogan	Phoua Kong	Amanda Skorich
Andy Chernisky	Kevin Kopischke	Richard Smith
Sarah Clarke	Douglas Knowlton	Gina Sobania
Amanda Campbell	Lindsay Korte	Wesley Stainbrook
Phil Davis	Lillian Lamoureux	Ashley Stutsman
Rassoul Dastmozd	Kerri Maleski	Julia Lee Stinger
Judith Drown	Christa Nelson	K. Taylor
Geoff Dittberner	Dave Nelson	Turquouya Thomas
Sherry Erbe	Laura Nevison	James VanHouten
Carrie Fairchild	Ryan Newbloom	Mandy Voges
Cora Fox	Brent Olsonawski	Nicole Wagner
Jason Fossum	Dozie Okpara	Andrea White
Michael Flannery	Lisa Openshaw	Koua Yang

The MSCSA Leadership Scholarship rewards undergraduate MnSCU students for their campus and community service. Congratulations to the following 2011-12 Leadership Scholarship Recipients:

Fall 2011 Recipients

Bonnie Beubaire
Olena Berezovska
Ronna Boettcher

Margaruette Finney
Kelsey Fuerst
Sara Huffman

Spring 2012 Recipients

Julie Jo Larson
Holly Sandhurst
Justin Weidman

Nicole Wagner
Kao Xiong