



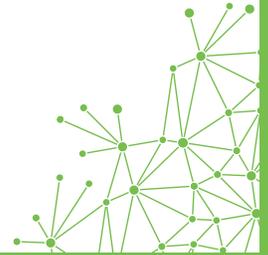
LEADMN
COLLEGE STUDENTS
CONNECTING FOR CHANGE

LeadMN is an association of college students connecting for change. We represent 180,000 two-year college students that advocate for opening the doors to opportunity for every person in Minnesota. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their dreams through higher education.

1515 South Robert Street, West Saint Paul, MN 55118

VISIT ON US ON THE WEB AT www.leadmn.org

CALL US AT 877-636-7272



LEADMN SUPPORTS

Reduce or Eliminate Tuition Costs for Community and Technical Colleges

Reducing tuition rates allow students to move through college to a degree without taking on massive student debt and will benefit the entire state of Minnesota. Businesses in every corner of our state are in need of skilled, well-trained workers and our community and technical colleges are the best equipped to help address the state's current workforce shortage.

Increase investments for TRIO and Gear Up programs

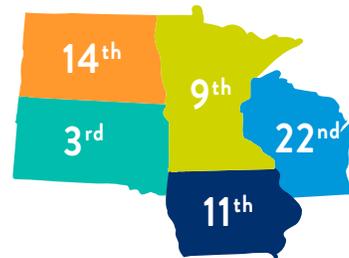
These programs are aimed at assisting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Low-income, first generation, and students with disabilities often face hardships in college access and completion that other students don't. These programs assist them with staying on a path toward degree completion. In order to meet our societal and workforce needs, it's critical that we increase graduation rates from these traditionally under-represented populations.

Expanding the use of OERs through federal grant programs or other funding initiatives

An often under-reported aspect of college costs, especially in technical programs, is the price of textbooks and other materials. Students often are faced with costs for books and supplies that go well beyond the posted tuition and fees at their institutions. If these costs were reduced by half, it would mean millions in savings and reduced student debt for thousands of students across Minnesota.

While open educational resources or open textbooks are not the answer in every field, we know that increased use of these resources can result in real savings for students. Imagine a world where more faculty were aware of the cost savings and academic usefulness of open textbooks. This could lead to academic improvements in the classroom and students saving millions of dollars.

2020 Federal Legislative Priorities



MINNESOTA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES HAVE THE **9TH HIGHEST** TUITION AND FEES IN THE NATION.

Source: CollegeBoard Trends in College Pricing 2019.

ONE FACULTY MEMBER AT A MINNESOTA COLLEGE SAVED STUDENTS IN HIS CLASSES (DURING ONE SEMESTER) OVER

\$66,000

BY SWITCHING TO AN OPEN TEXTBOOK.

Efforts to simplify FAFSA

Each year, students leave millions of financial aid dollars on the table that they are eligible to receive. In 2018, it is estimated that Minnesota high school graduates left \$30.5 million in Pell Grant unused. One of the main reasons is the process to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is complicated and cumbersome. This process is a barrier for many students, especially for students of color, first generation students, and others who have family or language barriers.

EACH YEAR SINCE 2013, ONLY ABOUT 60% OF MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HAVE COMPLETED THE FAFSA.



Source: U.S. Department of Education

While changes included in the recently passed Future Act will make the FAFSA easier to complete, there is still more that can be done to make the application process more student friendly, ensure equality in access to higher education, and encourage students to apply.

Addressing college hunger

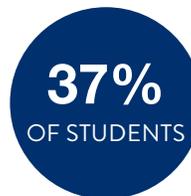
A growing body of research has shown how food insecurity has a negative impact on student success. In order to ensure that all students are successful, we need to make sure that they can be focused on their course work, rather than worrying about where their next meal will come from. There are a variety of bills that could help to alleviate food insecurity for college students and ensure they can achieve success.

BILLS ADDRESSING COLLEGE HUNGER

Food for Thought Act (H.R. 4065): Provides grants to community colleges to provide free meals, including snacks to eligible students and provide information on eligibility for food assistance programs.

Closing the College Hunger Gap Act of 2019 (S.2110, H.R. 3718): Students with a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on their FAFSA would be sent information on how to apply for SNAP.

Campus Hunger Reduction Act of 2019 (H.R. 1723): Would allow higher education institutions to be eligible for assistance grants for community food projects under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.



EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY IN THE PAST 30 DAYS



DID NOT EAT FOR A WHOLE DAY, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY FOR FOOD

Source: 2019 Hope Center #RealCollege Survey

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