

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism      Date of Meeting January 19, 2010  
Agenda Item: American Indian Initiative Update

Proposed Policy Change       Approvals Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Update and discussion by trustees on recent work on behalf of access, opportunity and success for American Indians.

Scheduled Presenters:

Whitney Stewart-Harris, Executive Director, Diversity and Multiculturalism  
David Isham, Access and Opportunity Specialist

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

- x The system implemented an American Indian Initiative in 2006 to improve higher education access, opportunity and success.
- x Enrollment of American Indians has experienced a slight increase.
- x The Office of the Chancellor and colleges and universities continue to work with members of the American Indian communities to develop and implement best practices that support increased higher education success for American Indians.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

<b>INFORMATION ITEM</b>
AMERICAN INDIAN INITIATIVE UPDATE

**BACKGROUND**

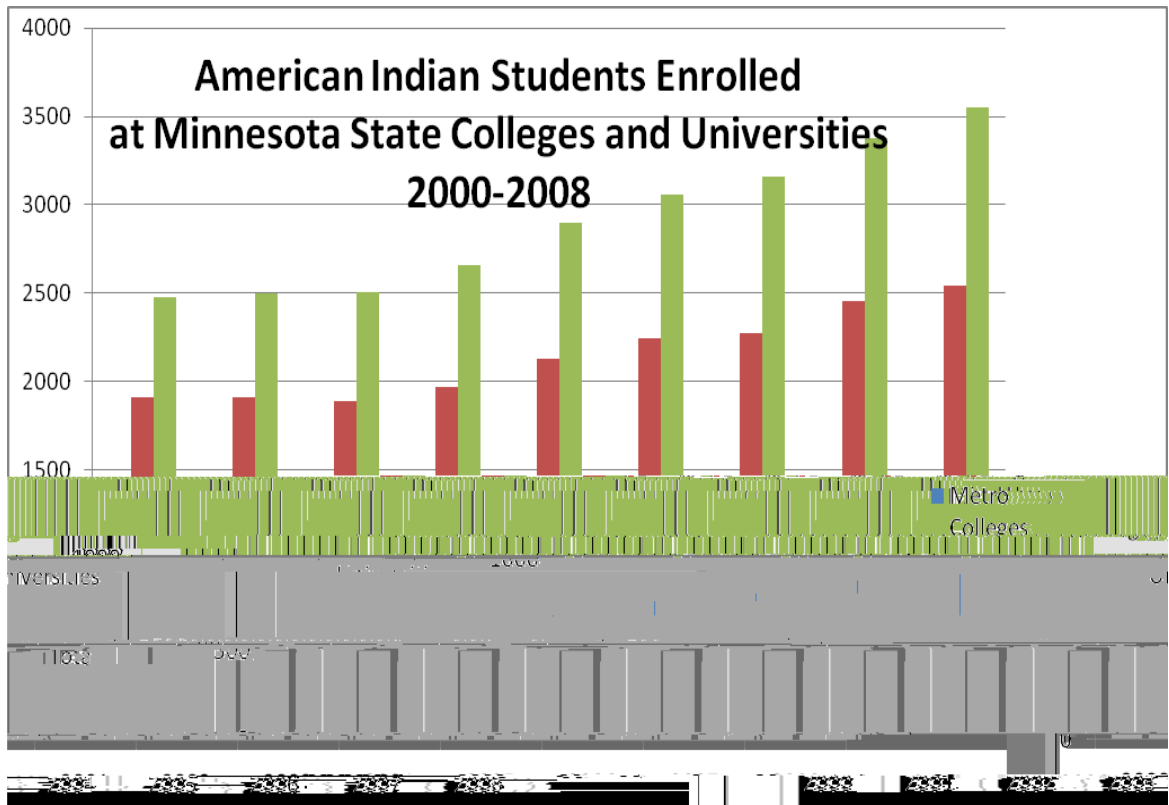
In response to a directive from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Directors and under the direction of Chancellor James McCormick, the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor and the colleges and universities have been engaged in the American Indian Initiative since 2006. This is another in a series of updates that are given to the Board periodically.

The reporting period is from the end of July to December 15, 2009.

Enrollment of new students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education increased by 22 percent this fall at the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, according to a new report presented to the Board of Trustees. These groups include students of color, low-income students and students whose parents did not attend college.

As of this report, preliminary fall quarter figures for breakdown by ethnicity were not available. However, a review of the figures from 2000 to 2008 has displayed a trend of increased enrollment by American Indian/Alaskan Native Students (see graph below).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Metro Colleges	562	593	618	687	769	808	882	920	1006
Universities	1915	1909	1891	1970	2132	2249	2276	2455	2546
Total	2477	2502	2509	2657	2901				



At this point, it is not certain that the numbers for American Indian/Alaskan Native students have increased from last year, but the trend would suggest that they have.

### **Colleges and University Activities**

During the period covered by this report, a number of events and conferences at various system institutions have taken place to share information pertinent to American Indian awareness. The following is a partial list:

- x Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
  - o Celebrated the appointment of Larry Anderson by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees.
  
- x Minneapolis Community and Technical College
  - o An Evening of Song and Poetry – an annual event designed to allow Native students a forum to showcase their talents.
  
- x Minnesota State University, Moorhead
  - o Dr. Donna Brown, appointed interim Vice President of Student Affairs for Diversity and Inclusion
  - o Indigenous People’s Education Conference
  - o Space secured for campus American Indian Student Center
  
- x Metropolitan State University

- Provided a variety of activities throughout November as part of American Indian Month
- x Bemidji State University
  - American Indian Summit: *Indian Education: Yesterday & Today*
- x Minnesota State University, Mankato
  - Began organizing American Indian Advisory Committee
- x North Hennepin Community College
  - Held First Annual Pow-wow
- x Office of the Chancellor
  - Brown Bag session on Sovereignty, presented by John Poupart

### **Outreach and Research**

The following are activities conducted by the staff of the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor during the period covered by this report:

- x Presented the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Systemwide Strategic Work Plan for American Indians 2006-2010 at the Minnesota Indian Education Association conference and the American Indian Summit at Bemidji State University
- x By invitation, participated in the Education Trust, Access to Success meeting
- x Met with President Richard Shrubbs, Minnesota West
- x Met with President Edna Szymanski, Minnesota State University, Moorhead
- x Seated as a member of the Tribal Nations Education Committee
- x Met with a representative of the 2010 Census on the importance of an accurate count in Indian country, and explored ways to partner with system institutions.
- x Met with Minneapolis Public Schools, exploring ways to better prepare and bridge k-12 and higher education
- x Attended meetings with Native American Community Development Institute to focus on the American Indian Cultural Corridor plans and how the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities can play an integral role in the educational component

This preliminary report is just a sampling of the efforts and activities that involve Minnesota State Colleges and Universities students, faculty and staff.