

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity

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

INFORMATION ITEM
ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees approved funding for Access, Opportunity and Success initiatives at each of the colleges and universities. These initiatives must be designed to support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students. Presentations on various programs and activities are provided to the members of the Board of Trustees. Below is a description of programs at Minnesota State University Moorhead and Bemidji State University that are examples of initiative work.

Minnesota State University Moorhead

In June, 2010, Minnesota State University Moorhead held its Summer Bridge Program for underrepresented and underserved students. Eighteen students completed the program. The students lived on campus and earned six college credits. Extensive planning was needed, as this bridge program was the first of its kind at MSUM. It is important to note that this program was a retention program, not a recruitment program. The students were accepted to MSUM for the fall semester, with the exception of two who were denied admission to MSUM and instructed to attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College for one year, and then transfer to MSUM.

The students experienced life in the residence hall, ate at MSUM food services, attended traditional college classes which fulfilled core curriculum requirements, used the wellness center facilities, and studied and researched in the library. Retention of underrepresented students from freshman to sophomore year has averaged around 50 percent. The goal of

