

FACT SHEET | Higher Education Investments

2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota

In 2013, the Governor and Legislature reversed a decade of funding cuts, investing \$250 million in initiatives to make higher education more affordable for hundreds of thousands of students. This year, the Governor's budget proposal would invest an additional \$93 million to hold down tuition growth at the University of Minnesota, expand the State Grant Program, continue reciprocity arrangements with neighboring states, and improve research outcomes at the University of Minnesota Medical School. The Governor's budget withholds new investments from MnSCU until the dispute between faculty and management is resolved.

Investing in Minnesota's Future

- **Importance of Post-Secondary Education** – By 2020, 65 percent of American jobs will require some form of postsecondary education and training beyond high school. Here in Minnesota, it is estimated that 70 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education.
- **High Cost of Debt** – Minnesota college students graduate with some of highest debt loads in the country. In 2013, the median debt for students earning a bachelor degree was \$27,300. This high cost presents a major barrier to Minnesotans seeking advanced training. It also is a drag on Minnesota's economy because these recent graduates are unable to afford homes, cars, and other goods and services that drive growth.
- **Preparing Minnesotans for Bright Futures** – Training Minnesotans for the good jobs of tomorrow is critical to growing our economy and ensuring the long-term vitality of our state. The Governor's proposal to hold down tuition growth at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU schools will help more Minnesotans afford the cost of higher education.

Improving Affordability for Minnesota Families

- **Saving Thousands for Minnesota Families** – The Governor's budget proposal would help hold down the cost of tuition for hundreds of thousands of students and their families. Under the Governor's proposal, University of Minnesota students would save roughly \$610 to \$734 – reducing their total loan burden by roughly \$2,500 over four years.
- **Increasing State Grant Funding** – For more than a decade, state financial assistance did not keep pace with rising tuition and the other increased costs of post-secondary education. That is why Governor Dayton's budget makes a significant investment in the State Grant Program – allowing an additional 12,400 students to receive grants. And if the Governor's budget is enacted, recipients would receive an average increase of \$300 with some getting up to \$1,034 more.

Governor Dayton's Higher Education Investments – By the Numbers

300,000	Number of Minnesota students who would benefit from Governor Dayton's proposed tuition relief proposal
\$600-\$700	Amount the average University of Minnesota student would save each year thanks to Governor Dayton's tuition relief proposal
\$300	Under Governor's proposed increase to the State Grant Program, Minnesota students would receive an average increase of \$300
\$1,034	Governor Dayton's proposed changes to the State Grant Program would allow some student to receive an additional \$1,034 a year