Statewide Electronic Infrastructure to Support Academic and Workforce Success

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

January 13, 2014

Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Executive Summary

This report to the governor and legislature is submitted as required by Minnesota 2013 Session Laws Chapter 136F Section 595 (Appendix A), which requires the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to report on the electronic infrastructure available to support academic and workplace success. Collectively, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), the University of Minnesota (U of M), the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (MOHE), and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) make available to students an extensive electronic infrastructure that supports academic and workforce success (see chart of electronic tools on page 3). Below are the key findings of this report:

1. Student and worker technology needs are very diverse, whether in high school, college, or the workplace; a fluid market of innovative technology products respond to these diverse and changing needs. No one tool satisfies every student and worker need.

2. The following are examples of collaborative initiatives to increase academic and workplace success. Technology is a key point of the dialogue in each of these initiatives:

   - **Secondary to postsecondary and employment transition legislation** calls for students to explore their college and career aspirations and develop a plan for smooth and successful transition to postsecondary education or employment. The plan would emphasize academic rigor and high expectations, identify personal learning styles, gain access to postsecondary education and career options, and integrate strong academic content into career-focused courses. MDE and MnSCU are collaborating on review of this Legislation.

   - The **Career Pathways and Technical Education Advisory Task Force** will recommend how to structurally redesign secondary and postsecondary education to improve the successful transition from secondary to postsecondary education and workforce. The task force is facilitated by MDE, at the request of the legislature, with support from MnSCU, the U of M, MDE, DEED, and others.

   - The **Career and College Readiness Collaborative** is a grassroots effort to provide students with the resources necessary to be successful in education, career goals, and lifelong learning. The collaborative includes individuals from elementary to postsecondary education, workforce development, business, community organizations, and other entities which contribute to career development activities.

   - The **Itasca Project** is providing key Minnesota stakeholders with data, analytical tools, and the support they need to ensure human capital is available in Minnesota and meets the foundational and technical skills expected by employers today and the years ahead. DEED, the U of M, MnSCU, private companies, foundations, and others are collaborating on this initiative.

- **MnSCU Charting the Future** outlines a path to a more prosperous Minnesota. One of the recommendations is to "Expand the innovative use of technology to deliver high quality online courses, strengthen classroom instruction and student services, and provide more individualized learning and advising."

3. A dramatic change in the technology landscape has occurred, moving away from single solutions and toward, instead, a wide range of robust technology tools available to support academic and workplace success. As available tools continue to multiply and evolve, we will work together to ensure that students and workers benefit from new and innovative technologies.

Electronic Tools that Support Academic and Workforce Success[1]
By Function[2]

Academic Planner	Career Exploration	College Exploration	Career and College Readiness	Electronic Portfolio	Resume Builder	Teaching and Learning
Examples of Tools Currently in Use[3]						
MCIS	MCIS	MCIS	NCRC	MCIS	MCIS	Elm Library
Naviance	Naviance	Naviance	SAT	Naviance	Naviance	Minitex
Agilegrad	Career Onestop	GPS Lifeplan	Accuplacer	eFolioMn	eFolioMn	Blackboard
DARS/uachieve	Discover	ISEEK	ACT	Linkedin (free to user/school/agency)	Linkedin (free to user/school/agency)	Desire2Learn
Taskstream	MN works	Ready Set Go	Compass	Orgsync	MN works	Mn Link
T20K	My skills my future		Explore	Taskstream		Moodle
U of M grad planner	O NET online		EdReady	T20K		Socrates
Docufide	Strengthfinder		Readistep	U of M portfolio		SoftChalk
Manage Bac	ISEEK		PSAT	Manage Bac		NROC
e-services			WorkKeys	Google drive (free to user/school/agency)		Respondus
			MyFoundationsLab	Parchment		Sophia
Examples of Other Available Tools[4]						
Apt.student	My Next Move	Big Future	PARCC	Campuslabs	Free Resume Builder (free to user/school/agency)	Campus
Student Success Plan (free to user/school/agency)	ASVAB	Education Planner	Smarter Balance	Carbonmade	Live Career (free to user/school/agency)	Canvas by Instructure
My Academic Plan (free to user/school/agency)	Education Planner	My Road		Chalkandwire	Goto Resume Builder	CCKF
	My Road	Student edge		Desire2Learn eportfolio	Resume Linked in	Cengage Learning
	ACT	Mapping your future		Digication	My Future (free to user/school/agency)	Cognizant
	Your free career test	College Explorations		Digitalmeasures	Career Ignitor	CourseNetworking
	Student edge	Exploring College Options		Livebeinders (free to user/school/agency)	My Perfect Resume	Sakai
	Mapping your future	Collegetoolkit		Clippings.me (free to user/school/agency)	Resume Genius (free to user/school/agency)	OpenClass

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[1] The chart includes some of the tools available to students and workers served by the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the University of Minnesota. Specific tools are available to different populations based upon the needs of students and workers.
[2] A glossary of functions is on page 4.
[3] Some of the names are registered trademarks.
[4] In most categories the number of tools that could be purchased by schools or agencies was too long to list; those listed are examples of what is available.

Glossary of Academic and Workforce Success Functions

An **academic planner** helps students plan which courses they need to take to meet their college and career goals and find the right courses to help bridge the gap between college eligibility and college readiness. An academic planner includes the data checking with the school curriculum.

A **career exploration tool** enables students to take career assessments (e.g., interest and skill) for self-awareness and provides information about career options (e.g., salaries, in-demand, and education requirements) to make strong matches between individual goals and education and career pathways that fit them.

A **college exploration tool** provides information about the types of postsecondary institutions such as courses, programs, degrees, institutional size, cost, location, student body, accreditation, admission requirements, student services, and more so that students can explore options that best fit them.

A **college readiness tool** provides students with vital information in regard to their progress toward college preparation, and enables students to adjust their high school schedule to align with career aspirations.

An **electronic portfolio (repository for learning and work artifacts)** enables students to save and organize documents, images, and multimedia files related to their academic achievement, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and career goals.

A **resume builder** provides the ability to create a customizable resume using templates to input individual data following standards recognized by employers, resulting in a document that can be saved, shared, and printed.

A **teaching and learning platform** helps teachers and students to ensure students are on track to success. This category includes primary teaching and learning tools, and library tools, but does not include tools from other categories.

Introduction

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, along with the other state agencies identified in Appendix B, in providing an electronic infrastructure to support academic and workplace success. The collaborating state agencies (Appendix B) met six times, had numerous phone calls, and reached consensus on this report.

Diverse Student and Worker Needs

The populations served across Minnesota are very diverse and often have different needs for technology. A few of the populations we serve are:

- Students who enter the workforce directly from high school

- Students who need to be challenged academically through early college programs such as Advanced Placement, concurrent enrollment, postsecondary education options (PSEO) and International Baccalaureate

- Students from traditionally underrepresented groups who need significant support to understand and navigate college information and financial literacy

- Non-traditional students who seek short-term retraining to advancing their careers

- Students who participate in adult basic education to gain foundational skills to prepare for career or postsecondary education

- College and university graduates who seek employment or graduate-level training

- Unemployed workers who need retraining

Markets in most technology segments are mature and able to respond to the diversity of needs. As the chart reflects, tools provide functionality ranging from career exploration to college readiness to building a resume.

Collaborative initiatives

The following collaborative initiatives support academic and workplace success, and will be supported by technology. One or more of the state agencies is involved with each of these initiatives.

- **The transition from secondary to postsecondary and employment legislation** is being reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The goal is a plan for all students to include exploring college and career options, and establishing an appropriate and individualized academic path.

- The Minnesota Department of Education is facilitating the **Career Pathways and Technical Education Advisory Task Force,** with support from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of Minnesota, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, and others to review the structural redesign of secondary and postsecondary education to improve transitions.

- The **Career and College Readiness Collaborative** is a grassroots effort that includes over 100 individuals from elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, workforce development, business, community organizations, and other entities which contribute to career development activities. The collaborative helps to provide students with the resources necessary to be successful in education, career goals, and lifelong learning.

- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities **Charting the Future** outlines a path to a more prosperous Minnesota by increasing access, affordability, and excellence in our colleges and universities.

- DEED, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, private companies and others are collaborating on the **Itasca Project** to ensure human capital is available to meet the skills expected by employers today and the years ahead.

Technology Landscape

As demonstrated in the chart of available electronic tools, there are broad categories of technology, and many tools provide functionality in more than one category. For most categories, the marketplace of tools is very mature. This means that vendors provide similar functionality (commodity), and that purchasing or usage decisions are often based on price or niche functionality. However, no one tool satisfies every student and worker need. Finally, just as public transportation supports high school students, college students and workers in different ways (e.g. high school buses, city buses, and light rail), technology tools are often tailored to the student populations that are served.

Appendix A
Minnesota Session Laws Chapter 136F Section 595

The Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Department of Education, the Office of Higher Education, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall collaborate to implement an electronic infrastructure to support academic and workforce success statewide. The infrastructure shall first utilize existing assets, tools, and services, including but not limited to eFolioMinnesota and GPS Lifeplan. To facilitate implementation of this section, the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall support efolioMinnesota and GPS Lifeplan until at least June 30, 2015. To the extent possible, the basic electronic infrastructure shall be available at no charge to all state residents and to all students attending Minnesota educational institutions.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may enhance the efolioMinnesota platform to allow, at a minimum, implementation of: (1) a portfolio-based individual learning plan solution that includes comprehensive academic and life planning instruments, to support student transitions to postsecondary school or to work; and (2) a student-owned proficiency portfolio solution to support student transitions to the workplace and employers seeking first-day-work-ready employees.

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may seek and accept contributions from individuals, businesses, and other organizations to support the goals required by this section. The parties listed in subdivision 1 are not required to contribute. All contributions received are appropriated to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and shall be administered as directed by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and universities shall submit, no later than January 15 of each year, a report to the governor and legislature on the progress of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's activities related to implementation of this section.

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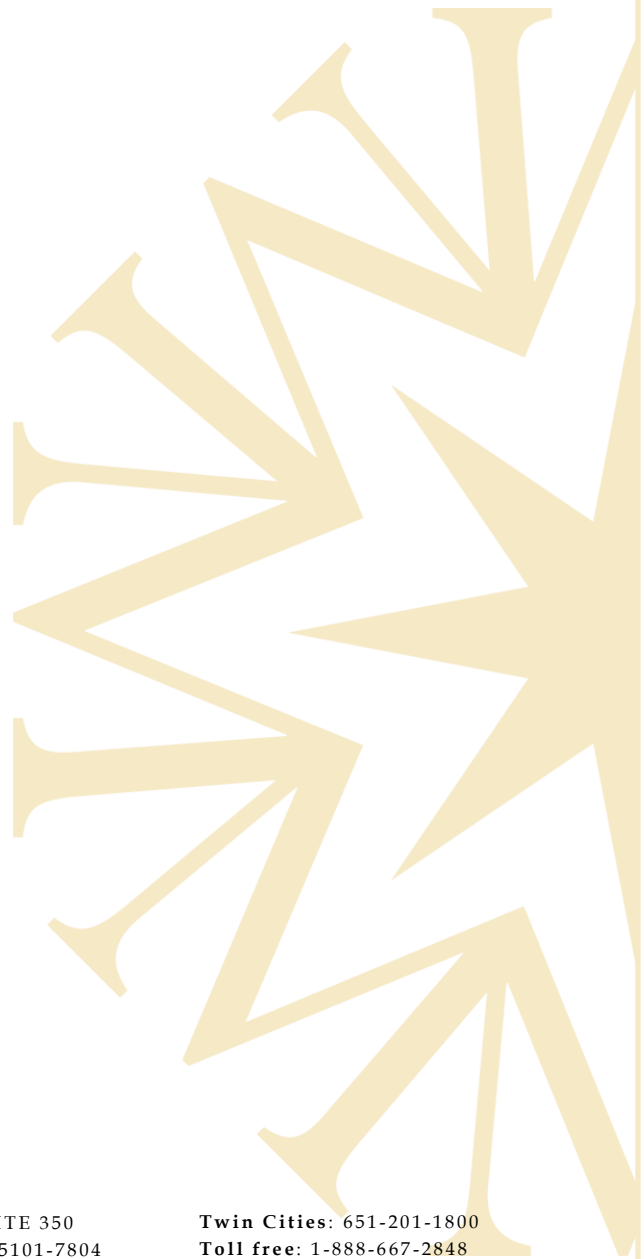
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