



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

Minnesota Department of
Education

POSITIVELY
Minnesota
Department of Employment and Economic Development

January 4, 2013

Joint Letter of Commitment for the Minnesota Comprehensive Career Pathways System

JoAnn Simser, EdD
State Director for Career & Technical Education
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
30 E 7th St. E. Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Dr. Simser,

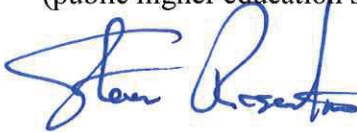
We are interested in participating in a two year technical assistance project to develop, refine, integrate and align all aspects of the career pathways system in Minnesota. We agree to complete a more detailed memorandum of understanding outlining roles and responsibilities at the time of selection.

Minnesota faces a significant skills gap in coming years. Education and training are the best strategies for long-term prosperity and competitiveness. Just five years from now, 70 percent of Minnesota jobs will require education beyond high school. Our growing need for a highly-skilled workforce, which is among the greatest in the country, has been brought on by an increasingly competitive global economy and rapidly evolving technologies. Yet today, we fall short of the number of working-age adults in Minnesota who have an associate's or bachelor's degree. The state's leaders have joined behind a bold vision to address these challenges by engaging in a number of coordinated activities to strengthen our current workforce, ensuring all high school graduates are ready for success, and ensuring more opportunities for low-skilled adults and adults with disabilities to be fully engaged in the Minnesota workforce.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), as the eligible agency, collaborates closely with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to supervise the administration of career and technical education (CTE) programs central to this project. The third critical partner in the development of career pathways in Minnesota is the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Leaders from these agencies also serve on the Governor's Workforce Development Council, an entity that works to strengthen the skills of Minnesota's workforce. These partners have worked together on critical career development, workforce development and economic development projects for many years including, but not limited, to the Technical Skill Assessment Project, Minnesota FastTRAC and adult career pathways project, the Alliance for Quality Career Pathways project, the National Programs of Study Institute, and the recent Workforce Listening Sessions held across the state. In combination, these projects all seek to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent young people and adults from effectively moving within both the education and workforce systems to obtain high-skill and high-wage occupations in demand in the Minnesota economy.

The following State leaders and our organizations, by our signatures, hereby commit to work together over the two year duration of the federal assistance to support the successful implementation of the Minnesota Comprehensive Career Pathways System proposal.

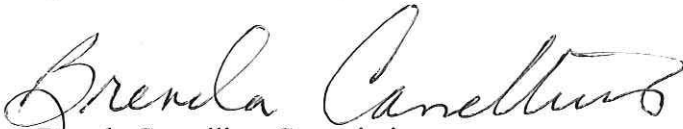
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
(public higher education system)



1/4/13

Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor
steven.rosenstone@so.mnscu.edu
651-201-1696

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(public K-12 education system)



Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner
brenda.cassellius@state.mn.us
651-582-8204

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(workforce & economic development)



Katie Clark Sieben, Commissioner
katie.clark@state.mn.us
651-259-7119