



LEADMN

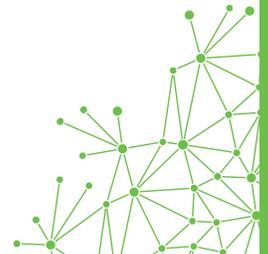
COLLEGE STUDENTS
CONNECTING FOR CHANGE

LeadMN is an association of college students connecting for change. We represent 180,000 two-year college students that advocate for opening the doors to opportunity for every person in Minnesota. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their dreams through higher education.

1515 South Robert Street, West Saint Paul, MN 55118

VISIT ON US ON THE WEB AT www.leadmn.org

CALL US AT 877-636-7272



LEADMN SUPPORTS

Increase investment in community and technical colleges

Increased investment in students and colleges that allows students to move through college to a degree without taking on massive debt or being interrupted in order to work more hours, will benefit the entire state of Minnesota. Businesses in every corner of our state are in need of skilled, well-trained workers and our community and technical colleges are the best equipped to help address the state's workforce shortage.

Increase investments for TRIO and Gear Up programs

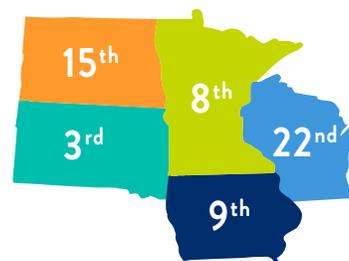
These programs are aimed at assisting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Low-income, first generation, and students with disabilities often face hardships in college access and completion that other students don't. These programs assist them with staying on a path toward degree completion. In order to meet our societal and workforce needs, it's critical that we increase graduation rates from these traditionally under-represented populations.

Expanding the use of OERs through federal grant programs or other funding initiatives

An often under-reported aspect of college costs, especially in technical programs, is the price of textbooks and other materials. Students often are faced with costs for books and supplies that go well beyond the posted tuition and fees at their institutions. If these costs were reduced by half, it would mean millions in savings and reduced student debt for thousands of students across Minnesota.

While open educational resources or open textbooks are not the answer in every field, we know that increased use of these resources can result in real savings for students. Imagine a world where more faculty were aware of the cost savings and academic usefulness of open textbooks. This could lead to academic improvements in the classroom and students saving millions of dollars.

2019 Federal Legislative Priorities



MINNESOTA
COMMUNITY
AND TECHNICAL
COLLEGES HAVE
THE **8TH HIGHEST**
TUITION AND
FEES IN THE
NATION.

Source: CollegeBoard Trends in
College Pricing 2018.

One faculty member
at a Minnesota
college saved
students in his
classes (during
one semester) over

\$66,000

by switching to an
open textbook.

Postsecondary data reform and transparency efforts

When students decide to pursue a postsecondary education they should know exactly how much they are going to pay, and if the financial aid and loans they receive will cover those costs. If students are presented with unexpected increases in the cost of attendance, they are often forced to make a decision about remaining enrolled. That is why we support efforts like the removal of the student unit record ban, expanded information about academic programs and majors, and other efforts like the universal financial aid award letter, that arm students and parents with increased information about the cost and effectiveness relating to educational choices.

Efforts to simplify FAFSA

Each year, students leave millions of financial aid dollars on the table that they are eligible to receive.

One of the main reasons is the process to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is complicated and cumbersome. This process is a barrier for many students, especially for students of color, first generation students, and others who have family or language barriers.

There are a variety of bi-partisan proposals aimed at simplifying the current 128-question form. Efforts to make the application process more student-friendly would help to ensure equality in access to higher education and encourage more students to apply.

AS OF FEBRUARY 2019 **ONLY 41% OF MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR FAFSA.**



Sources: Minnesota Office of Higher Education.
www.fafsaweb.state.mn.us/Reports/Summary?year=2019

LEADMN OPPOSES

Changes to Title IX that negatively impact victims and colleges

Requiring victims to participate in courtroom-like cross-examination, would force them to confront the accused face to face, deterring many victims from ever reporting incidents. Requiring colleges to hold live hearings with cross-examination would also place a major burden on a college's resources, as they would most likely need to provide attorneys for the involved parties, and have an attorney present to inform the presiding officers decision-making. This would come at considerable cost to colleges who are already extremely resource constrained.



100,000+

Comments submitted on proposed Title IX changes.

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