

# MINNESOTA HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023-2024

### OVERVIEW

Minnesota enacted authorizing legislation in 1990 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Over the past 35 years, commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory committees from Minnesota have provided and continue to provide important governance and strategic direction for MHEC.

### HOW MHEC BENEFITS MINNESOTA

- ▶ **\$9.26M in total annual savings.** Minnesota colleges, universities, school districts, state and local governments, and students and their families realized more than \$9.26M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs.
  - » *Technology Contracts.* Minnesota entities saved \$2.33M through MHEC contracts with Dell, Oracle, CampusGuard, Lenovo, and others.
  - » *Distance Education.* By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Minnesota saved approximately \$6.38M and avoided a costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
  - » *Tuition Reciprocity.* Minnesota students and their families who participated in the Midwest Student Exchange Program saved \$2.88M.
- ▶ **Strong return on investment.** Minnesota received an 81-fold return on annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000.
- ▶ **Research requests.** MHEC provided research to Minnesota leaders on topics including state structure for funding college access and success initiatives and school counseling strategies, net price disparities between public two-year and four-year institutions for lower-income students; direct college enrollment rates; and trends and procedures related to campus and academic program closures.
- ▶ **Open educational resources.** MHEC supported Minnesota with grant funds to invest in the creation of Minitex Network for Open and Affordable Practice, a program that supports librarians and educators in Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota.
- ▶ **Professional development and support.** Nine Minnesota leaders attended MHEC's FAFSA Summit. Eight technology leaders engaged in MHEC's free professional development and networking.

### COMMISSIONERS



**Omar Fateh**  
Minnesota  
Legislature, State  
Senator



**Jessica Hanson**  
Minnesota  
Legislature, State  
Representative



**Dennis Olson**  
Minnesota Office of  
Higher Education,  
Commissioner



**Scott Olson**  
Minnesota State,  
Chancellor



**Raj Singh**  
University of  
Minnesota, Vice  
Provost and Dean  
of Undergraduate  
Education



**Paul Cerkvenik**  
Minnesota Private  
College Council,  
President (alternate)



The Midwestern Higher Education Compact seeks to improve individual career readiness and regional economic vitality through collective problem-solving and partnerships that strengthen postsecondary education. To achieve this vision, the Compact focuses its work in three strategic priority areas:

## **INCUBATE**

### **Advance innovation, efficiency & effectiveness**

- » Serve as an incubator, studying challenging topics where MHEC can play a valuable role and piloting potential solutions.
- » Lead in expanding use and utility of open educational resources.
- » Respond rapidly to member states' requests for research on pressing topics such as workforce development, loan forgiveness programs, and college affordability.
- » Provide state-by-state data through an interactive dashboard on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

## **LAUNCH**

### **Develop collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities**

- » Take on projects, issues and opportunities that are too big for one state to do alone, working jointly to improve higher education and to strengthen the Midwest region.
- » Convene and connect higher education leaders to navigate timely and critical issues facing higher education, such as FAFSA, distance education delivery, and tuition reciprocity.
- » Help Midwestern states navigate accreditation standards to meet the significant increase in demand for dual and concurrent enrollment.

## **SAVE**

### **Drive cost savings & business solutions**

- » Leverage the combined technology needs of higher education institutions in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors that result in tremendous time and cost savings.
- » Explore opportunities to serve risk management needs.
- » Offer affordable solutions that improve student well-being.