

## Summary of Citizens League Draft Report Of October 5, 2004

- I. There is a need for Minnesota to reform and improve higher education
  - A. A new Vision
    - 1. Achievement and innovation must be fundamental principle behind new vision
    - 2. Should set high and measurable standards to achieve
  - B. Outcomes
    - 1. Best educated workforce in world
    - 2. Globally-competitive center for excellence and innovation in research
    - 3. National leader in transfer of new knowledge and advanced skills
  
- II. Recommendations
  - A. Aim for higher expectations in high school and in higher education
    - 1. Raise expectations to at least two years of post-high school education as a minimum level of achievement
    - 2. Rethink high school to ensure students are ready
      - a. students need to better use their time
      - b. preparatory curriculum for all students
      - c. expanded PSEO programs
      - d. advanced placement classes
  - B. Accountability and Innovation
    - 1. Create Knowledge Investment Council to advise on the \$1.2 billion annual investment in higher education
    - 2. Provide parents and students on-line report card for all higher education institutions to give information on the success, their students and programming options
  - C. Aim for Excellence
    - 1. Acknowledge contributions of private colleges and career college institutions in Minnesota
    - 2. Clarify expectations and strengthen focus, coordination and capacity of public institutions
      - a. MnSCU needs to continue to promote greater specialization and centers of excellence among its campuses
      - b. University of MN should continue to enhance role and focus as a world-class public research institution – and Minnesota should consider increased investments in the research infrastructure
  - D. Aim for Value and Financial Leverage

1. HESO should convene commission of national leaders to evaluate Minnesota's methods for providing students with affordable access to higher education
  2. Give MnSCU system authority to negotiate and approve all employee contracts and require 2/3 vote of Legislature to reverse vote by Board of Trustees regarding allocation of resources and facilities
- E. Aim for Leadership and Action
1. Emphasize the role of leadership by outlining immediate action steps that are easy and visible gestures to general public about importance of higher education
  2. Mission trip to get business and industry thinking about how they are served by higher education
  3. More private support
  4. Encourage Governor to promote and highlight importance of higher education
- III. Immediate Actions
- A. Governor needs to focus attention on issue and propose and lead reforms beginning with conversation with Minnesotans about importance of higher education to our future.
  - B. Focus on achievement gap and on affordability – Governor should immediately convene group of leaders involved in supporting scholarships and readiness programs
  - C. Begin a low-cost public service campaign to demonstrate the value of higher education
  - D. Governor should lead group of leaders on trip to learn about higher education efforts in Asia and see what Minnesota needs to maintain competitive edge

The recommendations focus primarily on reforms and innovations. Minnesotans must be prepared to look at the importance of higher education in maintaining quality of life and economic competitiveness as a state

This is the time for strong leadership, for hard choices, for reform, for innovation and for long-term investments

Several committee members met with Governor who was pleased with recommendations and support of following areas:

- Report does not ask for more resources
- Knowledge Investment Council (KIC) not intended as another level of bureaucracy
- Suggest K-14 approach to encouraging postsecondary education
- Recognition that directing more funding to students, not institutions is not feasible with the legislature