

Minnesota P-20 Partnership
10 March 2016
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Gross Family Board Room, 5th Floor, McNamara Alumni Center,
University of Minnesota

Meeting Notes

Voting members and designees in attendance:

Eric Kaler (chair), Steve Rosenstone, Larry Pogemiller, Mai-Ahn Kapanke, Kathleen O'Donnell, Kathleen Foord, Sara Gjerdrum, Jeanne Herrmann, Paul Cerkvenik, Steve Dibb, Katie Misukanis, Tim Benz, Captain Mindy Davis.

Others in attendance:

Pakou Yang, Valerie Horton, Julie Sweitzer, Beth Aune, Jon Steadland, Janet Kendra.

1. Approval of minutes

President Kaler welcomed the group and noted that a quorum of members was not present so formal business items, including the approval of minutes from the December 2015 meeting, could not be approved. All business items will be forwarded to the next meeting.

2. Discussion on the 2015 Legislative Higher Education Attainment Goal

President Kaler introduced the discussion of the 2015 State legislation adopting a measure of attainment of postsecondary credentials. The statute language puts forth the goal that number of Minnesota residents ages 25 to 44 who hold postsecondary degrees or certificates should be increased to at least 70 percent by 2025.

Shaun Williams-Wyche of the Office of Higher Education provided background information on the current status of postsecondary attainment. Currently, Minnesota is second in the nation in this metric with 49 percent of Minnesotans age 25 and older having an associate degree or higher. He observed that this rate varies dramatically by race and ethnicity and that the metric is significantly affected by the changing demographics of Minnesota, with the percent of people of color increasing from four percent in 1980 to a project 28 percent in 2040. Williams-Wyche noted that the primary levers for increasing attainment are traditionally thought to be best-fit postsecondary enrollment, college readiness, and retention/graduation efforts.

Commissioner Pogemiller observed that the legislation is essentially an unfunded mandate, but hoped that future legislative investments will be forthcoming. He commented that the discussion needs to veer from simply being about college cost to include the development of pipelines from the K12 community. Deputy Commissioner

Dibb agreed and noted that the focus on meeting the metric must be comprehensive and not isolated to only higher education.

Mai-Ahn Kapanke of the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (MPM) commented that the coordination between K-12 and higher education organizations must also include groups such as the MPM to comprehensively leverage the work happening in this space. President Kaler observed that this will be an appropriate topic for the P-20 Partnership to work on this year and proposed devoting significant meeting time to addressing potential opportunities for improvement.

4. Next Meeting & Adjournment

President Kaler noted that the next meeting of the P-20 Partnership would be on May 26, 2016. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.