



# Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations 2003 – 2005 Biennium Report

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This report provides information which is maintained by the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations as a part of its normal business functions. Therefore, the cost information reported below does not include the cost of gathering the data but rather is limited to the estimated cost of actually analyzing the data, determining recommendations and preparing this report document.

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## **SUMMARY**

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) serves the following career and technical student organizations:

### **Secondary**

BPA – Business Professionals of America  
DECA – Marketing Education  
FCCLA – Family, Career and Community Leaders of America  
FCCLA-HERO – Service Occupations and other related programs  
FFA – Agriculture and Agribusiness education  
HOSA – Health Occupations  
SkillsUSA – Technical and Industry Occupations

### **Post Secondary**

BPA – Business Professionals of America  
DEX – Delta Epsilon Chi – Marketing Education  
PAS – Post Secondary Agriculture Students  
SkillsUSA – Technical and Industry Occupations

The 2003-2005 Biennium began very uncertain for the MFSO. The MFSO had suffered a significant financial loss the previous fiscal year due to rescinded funding; forcing them to eliminate all staff.

After evaluating the needs and goals of the MFSO; an Executive Director was hired through a contract which provide for new levels of accountability.

Highlights over the past 2 years include:

Fund development;  
Legislative initiatives;  
Public relations programs.

The MFSO also strengthened its relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Working closely with the Adult and Career Education Team within the MDE has ensured career and technical education students are getting the best service throughout Minnesota.

## **MISSION & HISTORY**

### **Mission**

The MFSO promotes and supports career and technical student organizations as they work to provide student opportunities for leadership, personal development, community service and career preparation.

### **History**

Career and technical student organizations have served students for over 70 years. After federal legislation provided for agriculture and homemaking education, FFA (Future Farmers of America) and FHA (Former Homemakers of America) were established. As new career initiatives were added at the state level, other career and technical student organizations were developed. The state has provided leadership and funding for these organizations since their beginning.

The MFSO was created in 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature to bridge the public and private funding of Career and Technical Student Organizations. (Please see Minnesota Statute enclosure.)

Originally, all student organizations were state and federal programs, which over the years evolved into independent 501 © 3 non-profit organizations. With the advent of the School-to-Work program, student organizations developed a much higher profile as an integral part of the educational process where students experienced application of skill and developed personal leadership qualifications.

During that time, the Minnesota legislature agreed to boost support for this extremely important component of the education process by creating the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations. Modeled after the highly successful Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the legislature established the group and appropriated monies for not only the operation of the Foundation, but also for disbursement to the various student organizations for their operations. Additionally, they charged the Foundation with the responsibility of securing additional funding through outside sources of support for these same student organizations.

## **THE 2003-2005 BIENNIUM**

### **Staffing**

Beginning in November 2003, the newly hired Executive Director, under contract, is required to submit monthly reports detailing the completion of contract deliverables. This has brought a level of accountability to the Executive Director position the MFSO has not previously had.

The MFSO maintains a relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) through a contractual agreement; the MFSO utilizes the MDE for administrative and fiscal services. The state provides the contract and payment arrangements for the Executive Director, the necessary administration for the Legislative dollars granted to the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) and any additional public funding received. Through this arrangement the MFSO has been able to receive the services of an administrative assistant, grants coordinator and additional support as needed.

Many of the individual CTSO work closely with state specialists. This allows them to continue to receive guidance on curricular issues affecting their students and advisors.

## **Private Funding**

### **Friends of the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations**

The MFSO developed and implemented a plan for private fund development in the 2003-05 Biennium through the Friends of the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (Friends of the MFSO).

Several new Board Members have agreed to serve and lead the Friends of the MFSO in this Biennium and the next.

The Friends of the MFSO plan to continue to build name recognition through grant requests, staffing continuity, and community relations to achieve a goal of \$100,000. Currently the Friends of the MFSO have approximately \$16,000 in the 2003-2005 Biennium.

The Friends of the MFSO also had success in attaining in-kind services including: website development, a color printer, signs & banners, and workshop services.

## **Public Funding**

\$625,000.00 was received each fiscal year in the 2003-2005 Biennium. These funds were disbursed to CTSO supporting students in grades 10 – 14 through a formula approved by the MFSO Board of Directors and CTSO Executive Directors. (Please see page 11.)

Because of changes in staffing methods, travel, development and reductions in spending, in FY 2004-05 the MFSO increased the amount of money granted to CTSOs by approximately eight percent (8%) in this Biennium.

## **Legislative Principles**

For the first time, the MFSO has identified a set of Legislative Principles.

The Principles were developed after a series of discussion with several like-minded organizations including: Minnesota State College Student Association, Minnesota State University Student Association, and the Minnesota Department of Education.

## **Public Relations**

The MFSO secured a website domain, [www.mnstudent.org](http://www.mnstudent.org), and developed a website. Herron Consulting provided the necessary tools and development services, in-kind. The website hosts links to the CTSO State and National websites and noteworthy sponsors. The website provides information including: legislative statutes regarding CTSO, press releases, Board openings and upcoming events.

In the next Biennium, the MFSO plans to upgrade the website and allow for secure contributions to be made. The MFSO will continue to seek appropriate website sponsors.

Monthly press releases are sent to local print and television media by fax and electronic mail. The contact then receives a follow-up phone call to discuss the information. In the 2003-2005 Biennium the MFSO released over 15 press releases focusing on a variety of issues including CTSO conferences, competitions and community service projects.

The MFSO developed a promotional brochure which has been distributed to several organizations and businesses.

An on-going contest was launched in March 2004 to redesign the logo of the MFSO. The winner will receive a scholarship of \$300 and a one membership in a CTSO. Currently no date to conclude the contest has been scheduled.

## **Leadership & Development**

The MFSO successfully hosted the first annual CTSO Adult Continuity Leadership Conference on September 17 – 18, 2004. The conference focused on several issues including Board development, fundraising, and the current state of adult and career education.

The MFSO has become significantly more active in the operations of the individual student organizations. The MFSO has attended and presented at over 20 CTSO conferences.

## **Conclusion**

The MFSO has had its most successful Biennium ever. In the 2005-2007 Biennium, the MFSO plans to continue offering leadership opportunities to career and technical students in Minnesota by: building the name recognition of the MFSO, providing guidance to the individual CTSO and raising private funds.

## **A Word from the Career and Technical Student Organizations**

### **SkillsUSA**

A national, nonprofit organization, SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry. While working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, SkillsUSA helps each student excel.

SkillsUSA serves high school and college students who are enrolled in programs preparing them for technical, skilled and service careers. SkillsUSA adds to student's technical training by teaching them leadership skills, teamwork, citizenship and character development – all things that go into shaping responsible, reliable employees who will one day become leaders in our workplace.

According to SkillsUSA Alumni Drew Syring, "Skills USA afforded me the opportunity to interact with business and industry at a level simply going to school could never do. That interaction provided me the connections and relationships that continue to make me successful today."

### **Delta Epsilon Chi**

Delta Epsilon Chi is student organization dedicated to creating leaders for the future of professional careers in sales, marketing, management and entrepreneurship. There are many avenues for students to participate in Delta Epsilon Chi at the local chapter, state and international levels. Active students can be exposed to real world learning application in our competitive events program, leadership development, and social intelligence while gaining a greater commitment to the communities that they live in.

## **FCCLA**

FCCLA is reaching its 60th year of youth leadership development. Over 400,000 members have experienced the “Ultimate Leadership Experience” while positively affecting their families, their communities and schools with outstanding service and co-curricular projects. As the organization moves forward with programs that meet urgent social needs, such as STOP the Violence, nutrition education, financial literacy, intergenerational understanding, civic engagement, mentoring and peer education, the leadership experiences for members are life changing. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America promotes personal growth and development through family and consumer sciences education, focusing on the multiple roles of family members, wage earners, and community leaders.

## **DECA**

More than fifty years ago, the Distributive Education Clubs of America was organized around an ambitious goal: To improve educational and career opportunities for American students. In the years since that formation, we continue to be on the cutting edge of educational innovation, nationally known for integrating academic achievement with career skills and creating links with the business community. Over time, the needs of our membership changed, and we changed to meet them—long ago outgrowing the modest network of “Distributive Education Clubs” mentioned in our original name.

Now referred to as DECA—An Association of Marketing Students, the fundamental reasons we formed remain at our core. First, effective marketing education gives young people the tools and aptitudes they need to pursue their dreams. Second, marketing education works best when it’s part of an integrated education program.

Former member Steve Weber thinks the same! “Minnesota DECA has given me the opportunities of a lifetime. Through my local chapter, I participated in all three levels of competition: district, state, and nationals. I had the opportunity to serve District 3 DECA as their President. Through DECA, I gained crucial management decision making skills, which had assisted me during my college coursework, and have continued to assist me in every day tasks at work, even to this day. The feedback and advice a member of Minnesota DECA receives from the judges during competition is invaluable, and I have referenced my written projects several times in writing documents for other courses and for personal uses.”

Minnesota DECA functions as the companion student organization to marketing education programs in secondary schools throughout Minnesota.

## **Business Professionals of America (Post-Secondary Division)**

The Postsecondary Division of Business Professionals program of work involves the development of student leadership, acquiring competencies needed in business and office occupations, developing the soft skills that can help students to achieve success in their careers and instilling the importance of community involvement.

### **Business Professionals of America (Secondary Division)**

Business Professionals of America is a professional organization for both teachers/advisors and students. For students, membership helps develop pride in the business occupation for which they are preparing. Membership means that advisors and students have a state and national organization working to help build a positive image for business education and to plan programs, develop materials and provide a sense of unity for business education students and educators throughout the country.

In the words of former member Ben Oberle, “Business Professional’s of America has instilled in me the confidence and professionalism I will need to pursue all of my goals in the business world. If it weren’t for BPA, I would not have had the continued success I am still having today.” That’s why we are here. . .

### **HERO (FCCLA-HERO)**

Minnesota FCCLA - HERO held its first State Leadership Conference in the spring of 1971 under the name Minnesota Association of H.E.A.R.T. (Home Economics and Related Training.) Our focus is to provide leadership opportunities for students in service occupations programs. In 1981 H.E.A.R.T. changed its name to HERO and in 2001 to FCCLA – HERO to align with the national name change to FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), which was formally FHA/HERO. Being part of FCCLA provides national leadership opportunities for occupational students. Minnesota FCCLA - HERO remains a separate organization from Minnesota FCCLA (FLA/FHA) which allows us to focus on the uniqueness of the service occupations programs.

FCCLA - HERO lets students learn and develop practical, real-world skills and talents – keys to success whether they are entering the working force directly after high school or going on to post-secondary education. With the guidance and inspiration of teachers/advisers, FCCLA - HERO members grow into well-rounded young adults through:

FCCLA - HERO offers members the opportunity to shine through “high challenge, low threat” competitions. We offer over 50 state level and national STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events, which recognizes members for efforts and achievements in occupational programs, leadership skills, and individual and chapter projects. The competitive events let students plan for the multiple roles as wage earner, family member and community leader in addition to simulating real world, on the job experiences.

### **Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization**

The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) is an organization associated with agriculture/agribusiness and natural resources offerings in approved postsecondary institutions offering associate degrees or vocational diplomas and/or certificates. PAS is one of the ten career and technical student organizations that has been approved by the U. S. Department of Education as an integral part of career and technical education. The national organization was organized in March 1979 under Draft Bylaws. PAS was officially founded in March 1980 in Kansas City, Missouri. PAS is ready to celebrate 25 years of growth and success and to look into the future.

The membership now totals some 1,115 members from 56 Chapters located in 18 states. It is available to students in agriculture/agribusiness/natural resources postsecondary programs in approximately 550 institutions in all 50 states. Minnesota Post Secondary Agriculture Students Organization (PAS) is the largest of the PAS states in the nation. Minnesota's chapters include the following schools; Ridgewater (Willmar), South Central (Mankato), Minnesota West ( Worthington), and South West Minnesota State ( Marshall). It's mission is to provide opportunities for individual growth, leadership and career preparation. The motto is Uniting Education and Industry in Agriculture.

### **FFA Agricultural Education**

With a past rooted in the values of American agriculture and an eye on the future of an ever-changing world, FFA has become one of the largest and most diverse student groups today. Established in 1928, the organization now has a membership of nearly half a million students nationwide. With a continued focus on premier leadership, personal growth and career success, FFA is one of the symbols of what is positive in America's youth.

Therefore, Minnesota FFA encourages the nearly 180 School Districts continue to provide Agricultural Education programs serving students through an integrated model of classroom/laboratory instruction, experiential learning, and leadership and personal skill development.

"My advisor encouraged me to write down goals as a freshman in school; set times and dates. I continued to focus on how to achieve them. I looked at what my father and grandfather had accomplished in our cow calf operation, here, near Sebeka, (MN); and this is where I want to spend my life with my family." remarked Miles Kuschel, third generation operator at Rocking K ranch and the 2004 Star Over America Placement winner.

### **Health Occupations Students of America**

HOSA promotes opportunities in health careers by enhancing the delivery of compassionate quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill, and leadership development to help students meet the needs of the health care community.

## **FUNDING DISTRIBUTION**

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations is charged with a variety of responsibilities by the Minnesota Legislature including distributing public funding.

### **The Formula has three components.**

- **Part A Base Funding**

This plan distributes 60% of the formula funds equitably to each individual CTSO for the “base.”

“Base” resources are allocated by a fixed amount for each student organization. A maximum of two organizations can be recognized for each of the seven career areas defined in M.S. 124D.34.

### **Both Part B and Part C of the formula are distributed based on the number of career and technical students served.**

- **Part B Membership Factor**

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the formula funding is allocated on the basis paid state and national members served.

- **Part C Chapter Factor**

Fifteen percent (15%) of the formula funding is allocated on the basis of nationally affiliated chapters.

**2004-2005 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES  
MINNESOTA FOUNDATION FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

**Mission Statement**

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) promotes and supports career and technical student organizations as they work to provide student opportunities for leadership, personal development, community service and career preparation.

**Federal Legislative Issues**

- The MFSO supports continuation and increased funding for the Carl D. Perkins Fund.
- The MFSO supports the continuation of the U.S. Department of Education as an individual cabinet level department.
- The MFSO supports student organizations' right to organize at the national level.

**State Legislative Issues**

- The MFSO supports student organizations in their continued efforts to organize at the state level.
- The MFSO supports the continuation and increased funding of all vocational, career and technical student organizations operating in secondary and post-secondary institutions.
- The MFSO supports the continued disbursement of state funding for vocational, career and technical student organizations through the Board of Directors of the M.F.S.O.
- The MFSO supports funding of comprehensive curriculum, essential programs and services. Furthermore the M.F.S.O. supports full funding of state-mandated programs.
- The MFSO supports occupational licensing procedures that supply both secondary and post-secondary institutions with an adequate number of skilled instructors of vocational, career and technical programs.
- The MFSO supports funding for replacement of equipment needed by vocational, career and technical education programs in order to stay current and relevant. Additionally, the M.F.S.O. supports all continued and increased technology funding in secondary and post-secondary institutions.
- The MFSO supports non-traditional, applied learning environments.

- The MFSO supports class sizes that provide individual teacher attention to students, increase parent-teacher cooperation and foster effective teaching.
- The MFSO supports education employees receiving adequate compensation and quality preparation. Including, improving preparation programs to make them practical in application and relevant to the classroom.
- The MFSO supports continuous improvement through funded professional development.
- The MFSO supports MnSCU bonding initiatives as needed for the maintenance, growth and development of education within the Minnesota State College System.
- The MFSO supports MnSCU student activity fees being spent exclusively on student activities.
- The MFSO supports the creation of a council focusing on secondary and/or post-secondary vocational, career and technical education.
- The MFSO supports allowing students to pursue a particular “area of emphasis” in secondary and post-secondary education.

### **Additional Issues**

- The MFSO opposes discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, veteran’s status, marital status, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, status due to public assistance, or any other group or class against which discrimination could occur.
- The MFSO supports culturally diverse activities within all vocational, career and technical student organizations at the secondary and post secondary level.

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Organization**

- Satisfies all requirements to be in good standing with the national organization
- At least 100 student members
- At least 5 active chapters
- A maximum of two organizations can be recognized for each of the seven career areas defined in M.S. 124D.34

### **Member**

- An individual student who pays state and national dues from individual or family sources OR
- An individual student for whom state and national dues are paid from chapter, school or private sources

For purposes of providing funding for student organizations, the foundation will fund organizations whose members are:

A student in grades 10-14 (or an ungraded equivalent) who holds active, paid concurrent state and national membership in a student organization and meets all of the following criteria:

- 1) Is currently eligible to participate in the organization's activities and/or competitive events at the local, regional, state and national levels.
- 2) Is currently eligible to hold office in the organization at a local, state and/or national level.
- 3) Is currently eligible to vote in local, state and/or national organization elections.
- 4) Is a resident of Minnesota or is registered and attends a Minnesota education system.

### **Chapter**

- A school, institution, building or program where a career and technical student organization offers the opportunity for students to be members of a chapter.
- A nationally recognized, chartered chapter.
- Active/current student membership.
- The majority of the chapter members are in grades 10-14.

### **Reporting**

- The most current student membership and chapter numbers need to be reported to the Foundation office prior to June 1 of each year.
- Numbers reported will be subject to audit at any time.

Membership numbers from the previous fiscal year will be used to generate the funding for the following fiscal year.