



# **Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations Biennium Report**

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## **ESTIMATED COST OF PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

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.

Special funding was not appropriated for the cost of preparing this report. The estimated cost incurred by the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations in preparing this report is **\$348.00**.

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## **SUMMARY**

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) is the collective umbrella co-curricular Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) reside under in Minnesota. The MFSO was created in 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature to bridge the public and private funding of Career and Technical Student Organizations. The MFSO acts as an independent state agency and allocates legislative funding to co-curricular career and technical student organizations. As a non-profit, the MFSO provides assistance to the Career and Technical Student Organizations it serves in the following areas: Leadership Training, Conference Support, Board Development, Legislative Initiatives and Individual CTSO Grants. The 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  
Collegiate DECA – Marketing Education  
PAS – Post Secondary Agriculture Students  
SkillsUSA – Technical and Industry Occupations

Highlights over the past 2 years include:

Leadership Development;  
Private Fund Development;  
CTE Assessment Testing Support;  
and CTSO Board, Policy and Procedure Development.

The MFSO continues to maintain a strong working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota State College and Universities.

## **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 (Future Homemakers of America) were established. As new career initiatives were added at the state level, other career and technical student organizations were developed.

Originally, all student organizations were state and federal programs, which over the years evolved into independent 501 c3 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.

In 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature agreed to boost support for this extremely important component of the education process by creating the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations to bridge the public and private funding of Career and Technical 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 BIENNIUM**

### **Staffing**

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations currently has one part time staff employed by contract: Executive Director, Emily Saed. Saed has been with the MFSO since November 2003.

The MFSO maintains a fiscal relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The MDE provides oversight and necessary administration for the Legislative dollars granted to the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) and any additional public funding received.

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.

### **Operations**

Collaboration with the CTSO, MDE and MnSCU

The MFSO has continued to provide assistance to the Career and Technical Student Organizations it supports, including: Student Workshops, Board Development, and over-all general guidance.

Over the past year the MFSO worked with the Student Organizations, the MDE and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to assist the CTSO in implementing assessment testing programs in accordance with Federal Perkins guidelines. The MFSO is monitoring the impact of the testing with regard to participation and necessary financial support.

Internal Development

The MFSO Board of Directors in mid-way through comprehensive Board Development Training conducted in 3 phases: Phase 1: Education, An overview of Career and Technical Education; Phase 2: Purpose and Mission, Basic Board Training; and Phase 3: Strategic Planning, Review of the Bylaws.

External Communications

The MFSO maintains a physical address at Physical Address: 1500 Highway 36 W, Roseville, MN 55113. The MFSO also has a mailing address at PO Box 75473, 180 Kellogg Blvd E, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1438. The MFSO maintains a website that is updated regularly: [www.mnctso.org](http://www.mnctso.org).

## Public Funding

\$725,000.00 was received each fiscal year in the Biennium. These funds were disbursed according to Legislation. The MFSO has been limited in its ability to distribute Legislative Funding through the established formula.

The Funding is allocated directly to the Career and Technical Student Organizations through legislation directing the grants:

- 88.21 Subd. 16. Student organizations. For student organizations:
- 88.22 \$725,000.....2012
- 88.23 \$725,000.....2013
- 88.24 \$49,000 each year is for student organizations serving health occupations (HOSA).
- 88.25 \$46,000 each year is for student organizations serving service occupations (HERO).
- 88.26 \$106,000 each year is for student organizations serving trade and industry
- 88.27 occupations (SkillsUSA, secondary and postsecondary).
- 88.28 \$101,000 each year is for student organizations serving business occupations
- 88.29 (BPA, secondary and postsecondary).
- 88.30 \$158,000 each year is for student organizations serving agriculture occupations
- 88.31 (FFA, PAS).
- 88.32 \$150,000 each year is for student organizations serving family and consumer science
- 88.33 occupations (FCCLA).
- 88.34 \$115,000 each year is for student organizations serving marketing occupations
- 88.35 (DECA, secondary and postsecondary).
- 88.36 Any balance in the first year does not cancel but is available in the second year.

The Governor's Budget for the next Biennium would return control of the funds to the MFSO to be allocated based of student membership through the use of a formula. (Please see Attachment A, Funding Distribution.) It reads as follows:

### MN Foundation for Student Organizations

The Governor recommends ensuring funding for the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations within the existing student organizations' appropriations. The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations is tasked in statute to provide oversight and direction for secondary and postsecondary student organizations, but is currently unfunded.

This proposal supports the agreement between the Foundation and student organizations that would redirect some of the organizations' funds back to the Foundation. This proposal would also allow the Department of Education to direct funding for student organizations to the Foundation in one single grant, rather than as eleven individual grants.

### Performance Measures:

Funding the Foundation will enable it to fulfill its role to provide oversight and guidance. Providing a single grant for student organization funding will promote efficiency.

## Legislative Principles

### The MFSO Supports:

- the continuation of funding for all vocational, career and technical student organizations operating in secondary and post-secondary institutions.
- the continuation of the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations which fosters and encourages collaborative efforts among the career and technical student organizations and the continued disbursement of state funding to career and technical student organizations.
- the career and technical student organizations efforts to provide students with the necessary employability skills, including technical skill attainment, to lead them successfully through the school to work pipeline.
- providing students the opportunities to access and participate in secondary and post secondary career and technical education programs, including student organizations.
- occupational licensing procedures that supply both secondary and post-secondary institutions with an adequate number of skilled instructors of vocational, career and technical programs and student organizations.
- funding for replacement of equipment needed by vocational, career and technical education programs in order to stay current and relevant.
- applied learning environments and class sizes that provide individual instructor attention to students and increase parent-teacher cooperation and foster effective teaching.
- education employees receiving adequate compensation and quality preparation; including, improving preparation programs to make them practical in application and relevant to the classroom.
- the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities bonding initiatives as needed for the maintenance, growth and development of career and technical education programs within the Minnesota State College System.
- the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities student activity fees being spent exclusively on student activities.
- the continuation of funding Carl D. Perkins IV at the federal level; and the development of additional streams of revenue at the state and local level to support career and technical education programs.
- student organizations' right to organize at the state and national level.
- reaching underserved populations and providing meaningful leadership experiences within career and technical education programs.
- culturally diverse activities within all vocational, career and technical student organizations at the secondary and post secondary level.

## **Leadership & Development**

The MFSO continues to support the Board Development, Strategic Planning, and the Review of Policies and Procedures of the individual student organizations. The MFSO has provided facilitation to the student organizations of these activities.

The MFSO has constructed and is continually updating a comprehensive guide for CTSO which includes: universal policies on finance including purchasing fixed asset, and fiscal responsibility, state grant procedures, time-lines, and general best practice guidelines.

This past year the MFSO began hosting the “CTSO Round Table”. This gave the Executive Directors of the individual student organizations a time to come together, outside of a formal MFSO Board Meeting, to share ideas and discuss issues common to all of them. Many good ideas were shared and generated during this time. The MFSO plans to continue to hosting these events twice a year.

The MFSO also assisted in funding and hosting student leadership activities including the annual joint officer training for new state officer training utilized by 5 student organizations.

The MFSO forged a partnership with the Minnesota Association of Career and Technical Educators (MnACTE). This resulted in joint activities including “Day at the Capitol” allowing students enrolled in CTSO to spend a day meeting with their legislators during CTE month (February).

## Special Projects

The MFSO is currently working on two special projects focused on highlighting the impact Career and Technical Student Organization's have on individual students and the workforce.

### Transition to Success in the Workplace

A healthy workforce is the foundation for a successful state and local economy. Balanced economic growth within the job sector is fostered by educational programs providing the necessary skills for students to seek employment within the same region. This involves educators, business and industry leaders, public service and community representatives playing an active in the educational system. This is already occurring within co-curricular career and technical student organizations.

#### Objectives:

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations is seeking to provide quantifiable research demonstrating:

1. The success rate of student transition from secondary to post secondary career and technical education program is significantly higher when the student is participating [defined as a member] in a co-curricular career and technical student organization;
2. The rate of program completion [at the secondary and post secondary level] is greater when the student is participating in a career and technical student organization;
3. Academic rigor and technical skill attainment are stronger and more prevalent when co-curricular career and technical student organizations that are embedded in the classroom teachings;
4. The leadership [employ-ability] skills attained through career and technical student organizations lead to employment within the field.

#### Impact and Intent

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations intend to utilize the findings in this study to assist the Career and Technical Student Organizations in chapter development and growth throughout the state. We believe yhis research will help educators and administrators understand the value of co-curricular career and technical student organizations in the classrooms; it will provide educators curriculum and technical standards in most cases far more rigorous then are currently required. Finally, it will provide academic institutions the much needed connection with business and industry encouraging employment for the student within the region; fostering local economic growth.

## Overcoming Barriers to Membership and Meaningful Participation

### Objective

To ensure all students have the ability to join AND actively participate in the leadership opportunities within career and technical student organizations; paying specific attention to barriers encountered by underserved and nontraditional populations, including socio-economic status and minority status.

### Goals

1. Identify specific barriers encountered by students that are current members in career and technical student organizations prohibiting them from [full] participation (i.e. conference attendance; industry certification, technical skill attainment);
2. Identify common barriers of those students enrolled in career and technical programs, not participating in career and technical student organizations where they are currently available (i.e. a chapter has already been established);
3. Identify broad barriers that keep schools/institutions offering accredited career and technical education programs from establishing career and technical student organization chapters to their students.
4. Develop and assist career and technical student organizations real and financial long-term solutions to overcome barriers.

### Impact and Intent

The research helps practitioners [advisors and educators], business and industry partners and leaders, policy makers, and education administrators learn about effective strategies for engaging students in co-curricular activities in meaningful ways and for increasing and maintaining participation. Ultimately, seeking to overcome barriers, allowing all students to have the opportunity to fully participate in career and technical student organizations.

## **The Career and Technical Student Organizations**

The Student Organizations are recognized as a co-curricular by the Minnesota Department of Education and all programs are offered as integral to the curriculum. All of the Career and Technical Student Organizations are part of national organizations. The student organizations are all governed by a Board of Directors, elected by teachers that advise local chapters.

Chapters are run by student members with advice and assistance from local teachers. The Career and Technical Student Organizations provide opportunities to learn the correct way to hold a productive business meeting. Chapter activities are recognized as a part of the total educational program because they develop leadership skills, professional attitudes, business competency, citizenship characteristics and social growth of the individual.

The Career and Technical Student organizations work hand-in-hand with the education and business communities; with the goal for its student members to develop a "Career Success Kit" to carry into their business and personal lives after graduation, one that includes:

- Career competencies
- Job skills
- Leadership abilities
- An understanding and appreciation of community service
- Ethical values

To accomplish this, they use on-the-job experience, chapter projects, and competency based competitive events programs allowing students to compete in over 200 skilled competitions.

Business and industry leaders also play a vital part in Career and Technical student organizations. These leaders assure that career and technical training programs stay current and meet industry technical standards. They volunteer to speak to students about their industry or job seeking & keeping skills, they help to design and judge the hands-on skill competitions at the local, state and national level, and donate supplies and equipment for student use in the school setting.

The Career and Technical student organizations emphasize academic and career excellence and help to demonstrate the all-important direct relationship between curriculum and the real needs of business and industry.

### Career and Technical Student Organizations

The mission of Minnesota DECA and Collegiate DECA is to enhance the education of all students with interests in marketing, management or entrepreneurship while meeting local & state initiatives. DECA assists students in developing skills and competencies for marketing careers, while building self-esteem, experiencing leadership, and providing community services. This is accomplished through local, state, and national activities and competitive events.

The mission of Business Professionals of America (BPA) is to contribute to the preparation of

a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. Minnesota BPA provides educational experiences that further develop social intelligence, civic consciousness, leadership skills and self-esteem for its members. These experiences empower the members to gain the necessary life work skills to succeed in our global environment.

The Minnesota FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA is a vital part of learning. The FFA award and degree programs recognizes students for excellence in academics, career development, leadership and community service. The Minnesota FFA Organization celebrates leadership, communications, team work, problem solving, character, community service and citizenship.

The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization provides opportunities for individual growth, leadership and career preparation. Members develop skills for life through: Character Development, Creative and Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Communication, Practical Knowledge and Vocational Preparation.

The mission of FCCLA and FCCLA-HERO is to promote personal growth and leadership development through service occupations. Focusing on the multiple roles of the family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through: Character Development, Creative and Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Communication, Practical Knowledge and Vocational Preparation.

SkillsUSA Minnesota creates opportunities for students, educators and business. This is accomplished through leadership training, volunteerism opportunities, competitions and conferences, which enhance students' self-worth and employability skills to create a seamless transition into the workforce.

The mission of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

## **Conclusion**

The MFSO intends to conclude it's Board Development to become a higher functioning Board.

The MFSO will continue to pursue special projects such as “Overcoming Barriers to Participation” and “Transition to Success in the Workplace” to highlight the benefits of CTSOs and ensure they are available to all students enrolled in Career and Technical Education Programs throughout the state.

And most importantly, over the course of the Biennium, the MFSO provided leadership and development to the Career and Technical Student Organizations it serves through workshops, conferences, project development and financial support. The MFSO will continue to strive to provide the necessary leadership and guidance to make the organizations it serves more successful.

## Attachment A

### Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations Funding Distribution

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

#### MFSO Funding Formula

The MFSO allocates funding based on the following formula created in 2000 and modified in 2002. The formula takes into consideration the growth and development of each of the Student Organizations annually.

#### **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.

##### 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.

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

## Attachment B

### Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations Definitions

#### Organization:

A career and technical state organization must:

- satisfy all requirements to be in good standing with the national organization;
- have at least 300 members;
- have at least 10 active chapters; and
- have a maximum of two organizations that are recognized for each of the 7 career areas as defined in in M.S. 124D.34\*.

#### Chapter:

A career and technical student organization chapter must:

- be part of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) state approved program;
- be a state and nationally recognized, chartered chapter; and
- have ten (10) or more members that meet CTE grade level guidelines (currently 9-14).

#### Member:

A chapter member must:

- be a student who has fully paid state and national CTSO dues for the current year;
- be enrolled in an approved CTE program at a Minnesota education school or college in grade levels that meet state CTE guidelines.

#### Reporting:

Each CTSO organization must:

- report the current year's student membership and chapter numbers to the MFSSO office prior to June 1 of each fiscal year;
- submit to an audit at the discretion of the MFSSO Board of Directors.