Strategic directions and goals

To successfully respond to the academic, economic, demographic and social changes occurring in a global environment, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will undertake the following strategic directions and goals:

**Strategic Direction 1: Increase access, opportunity and success**
- **Goal 1.1** Raise Minnesota’s participation and achievement in post-secondary education by meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and educational goals.
- **Goal 1.2** Prepare young people to enroll in higher education ready for college-level work by working with schools and other organizations.
- **Goal 1.3** Maintain an affordable and competitive cost of attendance.
- **Goal 1.4** Support students to reach their educational goals with a focus on graduation or transfer.

**Strategic Direction 2: Achieve high-quality learning through a commitment to academic excellence and accountability**
- **Goal 2.1** Continuously improve instruction through assessment of student engagement and learning outcomes.
- **Goal 2.2** Produce graduates who have strong, adaptable, globally competitive and flexible skills.
- **Goal 2.3** Provide multiple efficient and effective delivery options for educational programs and student services.
- **Goal 2.4** Employ outstanding faculty and staff who bring current knowledge, professional skills and cultural competence to educate students.

**Strategic Direction 3: Provide learning opportunities, programs and services to enhance the global economic competitiveness of the state, its regions and its people**
- **Goal 3.1** Be the state’s leader in workforce education and training.
- **Goal 3.2** Support regional vitality by contributing artistic, cultural and civic assets.
- **Goal 3.3** Develop each institution’s capacity to be engaged in and add value to its region and meet the needs of employers.

**Strategic Direction 4: Innovate to meet current and future educational needs**
- **Goal 4.1** Build organizational capacity for change to meet future challenges and remove barriers to innovation and responsiveness.
- **Goal 4.2** Draw on the talents and expertise of faculty, staff, students and others to meet the challenges facing the system.
- **Goal 4.3** Hire and develop leaders at all levels who will initiate and support innovation.
- **Goal 4.4** Critically examine and improve structures, technologies, policies and processes to support transformative innovation.

**Strategic Direction 5: Sustain financial viability during changing economic and market conditions**
- **Goal 5.1** Make budget decisions that reflect priorities in the core mission and fiscal stewardship.
- **Goal 5.2** Rigorously pursue ways to reduce unnecessary costs.
- **Goal 5.3** Develop funding sources to supplement revenues from state appropriations, tuition and student fees.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees June 16, 2010*
Minnesota’s competitiveness is advanced by the success of its students in a global market. As the Board of Trustees considered a long-term horizon for the system strategic plan, it became clear that the system in 2020 will be shaped by the ability to address today’s challenges.

The refinement of the current strategic plan acknowledges the system has matured and provides a framework for sustaining a distinctive and collaborative network of colleges and universities. It also recognizes the dynamic needs of a new generation of learners that redefine the programs and services delivered. The decisions the system makes have long-term consequences, both for students and the communities served.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will thrive in the next decade and beyond as the most accessible, highest value education in the nation. This vision requires heightened leadership, support for students, recognition and pursuit of the system’s collaborative and innovative capacity, and new levels of cooperation with and accountability to internal and external stakeholders. The continuing and new goals articulated in this document will guide annual planning, decision-making and assessment.