

# **Citizens League Presentation**

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## **I. Environmental Review**

- Demographic shifts in the upper Midwest, especially Minnesota, are at odds with national trends.
  - The 90's were kind to Minnesota – the present and future less so.
- Resources are and will be scarce and higher education is a declining public priority – will not change without major public leadership.
  - Minnesota is trailing most of the nation in rebounding from the recession – some policy problems – some structural – some resource problems.
- We are working in a complex higher education environment in which our future success requires reform and realignment, which will not be had without leadership and preparation.

## **II. Governor's question Writ Large: Are our resources and organizations aligned for present and future challenges?**

Answer: NO

Especially not in Access, Retention and Success, and Research

Current policies and practices leave the state short of the necessary supply of college graduates and a research culture to support a complex economy. Current performance leaves us under-prepared to compete globally and without sufficient knowledge of our competition to understand it.

**III. Given both the political climate and failure to prepare the public for significant change, we probably need to pick our priorities carefully and appeal to mutual interest and benefits.**

*To improve access for low-income and minority students, we recommend the following:*

1. Appropriate additional state funds to significantly expand the capacity of sanctioned TRIO Programs using a competitive bidding process through HESO.
2. Award each TRIO graduate who is eligible for a Pell Grant an additional \$1000 per year up to four years in an eligible program.
3. Restore and expand Summer Enrichment Scholarships based on need.

*To increase retention and success for students with demonstrated need, we recommend the following:*

1. Lower the student share in the State Grant Program to 40%.
2. Prorate State Grants to part-time students according to actual credit hours carried per term.
3. Continue to fund increased need among State Grant recipients generated by increased student tuitions and fees in the public sector and increase the tuition and fee cap in the State Grant Program by the same factor.
4. Restore and expand Child Care grants for students with dependents.
5. Request that the Governor and Legislature petition Congress to resolve all of the fundamental issues for undocumented non-citizens so that their children and future generations will have the benefits of citizenship including eligibility for state tuition subsidies and financial aid.

*To help create a stable and continuous source of funding for basic research at the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota, we recommend the following:*

The creation of a stand alone Research Foundation reporting to the President and Board of Regents of the U-M to support basic research at the Twin Cities campus to be supported initially by seed funding from the state and corporate community and thereafter from an appropriate portion of proceeds derived from marketable by-products of such research.