



# **Minnesota House of Representatives Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee**

## **Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP)**

**February 9, 2021**

**Dr. Sandy Pulles and Megan Rozowski**



Minnesota  
Education Equity  
Partnership

Advancing Race Equity & Excellence

# MnEEP Mission

MnEEP transforms systems, structures and public narratives to advance race equity and excellence in education.

Equity

Relationships

History

Justice

Self-Actualization



# Race Equity in Higher Education

“A new condition for race equity brings about clear remedies for historic and present day structural and policy barriers producing racial disparities and disparate impacts. Race equity is not merely a value, it is a systemic and structural shift. **Race equity is actualized fairness and justice**” (Annie E. Casey Foundation).



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## Minnesota Educational Attainment GOAL 2025



**70%** of Minnesota adults in each racial group  
will achieve a **postsecondary certificate**  
or **degree**

*Minnesota legislation passed in 2015*



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# Using a Racial Equity Lens

**Using a Racial Equity Lens**

The metaphor of a *lens* allows us to see our contexts in new and revealing ways.

POLICIES  
OUTCOMES  
POWER  
RELATIONSHIPS  
SOLUTIONS

#FacingRace14



POLICY BRIEF | JANUARY 2020

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership | MnEEP

## REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN COLLEGE COMPLETION

The Case for an Equitable Higher Education  
Financial Aid System in Minnesota

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An equitable statewide higher education system that supports People of Color and American Indian and/or Indigenous (POCI) students in completing college via certificate or degree attainment is a key indicator of the socioeconomic health of Minnesota. The state needs more highly skilled workers to support a growing economy, and completing a college credential is essential to social and racial justice in our state.



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The racial disparities in Minnesota's higher education system are among the worst in the nation. In Minnesota, and throughout the country, POCI students are less likely to enroll, remain in, and succeed in college.

The racial disparities in Minnesota's higher education system, and more specifically the policies governing the financial aid system, have disproportionately impacted POCI students throughout the state. As a result, POCI students are far less likely to graduate with a college credential in Minnesota than their White peers.

This study explores one aspect of college access and completion: The macro-finance issues within Minnesota's higher education finance system and how they impact the recruitment, retention, and graduation of POCI college students.

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# MnEEP College Race Equity Advocacy Advisory Council (CREAAC)

Joyce Foundation grant-funded statewide convening:

- Community members
- Systems and institutional partners
- Non-profit
- Conversations with higher education institutional and systems leaders to center race equity



# The Minnesota Race Equity in Higher Education Promise

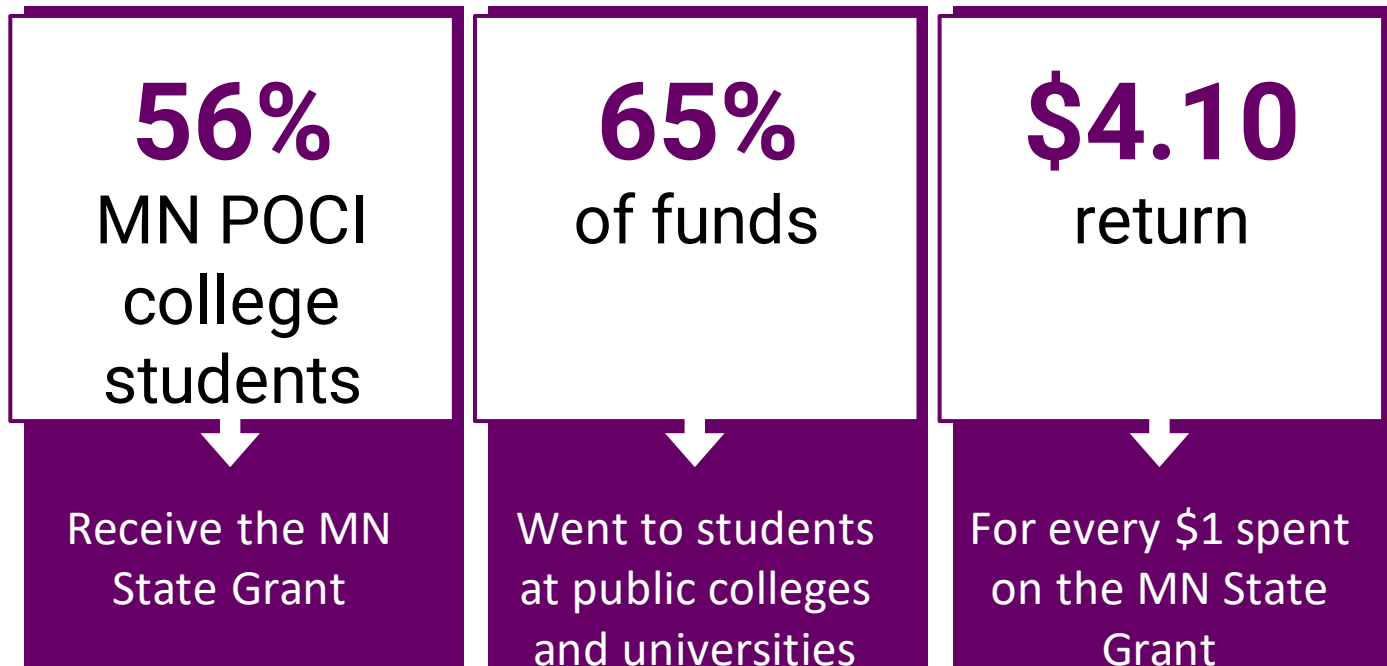
Increase access and degree completion for students of color and indigenous and American Indian students (POCI) by:

1. modernizing the Minnesota State Grant and Work Study to improve college access and degree completion for POCI students;
2. providing POCI students with the holistic supports needed to complete a college degree.



# The Minnesota State Grant

Need-based grants increase retention and completion, reduce borrowing, and narrow educational attainment gaps for POCI students.





**Promise Goal 1:** Modernize financial aid to improve college access and degree completion for POCI students.

### **Policy Recommendations:**

1. Reduce the student responsibility for the Minnesota State Grant
2. Increase the calculation for the LME for the Minnesota State Grant\*
3. Extend the credit threshold for Minnesota State Grant eligibility
4. Ensure developmental education courses do not count against State Grant eligibility\*
5. Provide support so 85% of the state's POCI students and low-income students at high schools complete the FAFSA
6. Expand Minnesota Work Study

\*Governor's proposed budget addresses these recommendations

**Promise Goal 2:** Provide POCI students with the holistic supports needed to complete a college degree.

### **Policy Recommendations:**

1. Provide a full analysis of developmental education offerings and outcomes and require multiple measures for course placement
2. Phase out traditional developmental education offerings and reinvest in holistic student supports
3. Require finely disaggregated reporting on transfer students who stop out
4. Improve transfer policies to shorten time to degree and minimize excess credits
5. Provide state funding to support ongoing professional development on culturally responsive teaching, racial equity, and anti-racist teaching practices for all higher education faculty and staff