Economic Development and Minnesota’s Higher Education System

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Introduction

• Innovation is a major force in economic growth
• Higher education institutions play a major role in the innovation ecosystem
• **Traditionally:** Higher education institutions have operated independently from one another and with intermittent business engagement
• **New Vision:** A more collaborative approach engages the full ecosystem and achieves greater economic growth
Mission
We provide higher education that meets the personal and career goals of a wide range of individual learners, enhances the quality of life for all Minnesotans and sustains vibrant economies throughout the state.

How Businesses Engage
- We offer business assessment and customized training at 32 Minnesota State colleges and universities – completing nearly 3,000 training contracts with employers last year.
- We partner with businesses on federal and state grants to train and develop new and incumbent workers. For example, approximately 85 percent of Minnesota Jobs Skill Partnership grants are awarded to a Minnesota State in partnership with businesses.
- We support individual employee skill development through non-credit continuing education. Often paid for by employers, this form of education is flexible with ‘just-in-time’ delivery.
- Businesses engage with Minnesota State for economic and workforce development through industry advisory groups, donations, research with students and faculty and to offer cutting-edge programs.

http://www.mnscu.edu/business
Ways to Take Action

- Encourage growing and newly-located businesses to contact their local college or university to partner on workforce development strategies.

- Encourage employers to support skill certifications and pathways for advancement as a workforce (and economic) development strategy.

- Seek college and university research assistance for career and labor market information (TalentNeuron Recruit), programs and graduates, business assessments, student and faculty research, etc.

- Consider involvement in career exploration events for youth, job fairs or apprenticeships/dual education.

http://www.mnscu.edu/business
University of Minnesota

Mission
We are Minnesota's research university; changing lives through research, education and outreach.

How Businesses Engage

<table>
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<tr>
<th>We provide:</th>
<th>We partner:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Technology</strong> for licensing to businesses of all sizes</td>
<td>• To design and conduct <em>research</em> projects that solve business needs</td>
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<td>• Access to cutting edge tools, <strong>resources</strong> and expertise to support business success</td>
<td>• To <em>mentor</em> students and provide experiential learning opportunities</td>
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<td>• Job posting and recruiting services to fill <strong>workforce</strong> needs</td>
<td>• On economic development <strong>initiatives</strong> (e.g. MnDRIVE)</td>
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<td>• Executive education and customized <strong>training</strong></td>
<td>• In communities across the <strong>state</strong> (Extension)</td>
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<td>• Co-location and <strong>sponsorship</strong> opportunities</td>
<td>• On national and international <strong>opportunities</strong></td>
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www.frontdoor.umn.edu
THE UNIVERSITY’S “FRONT DOOR & MORE”

The Office of University Economic Development (UED) offers a broad range of services to companies, nonprofits and other groups looking to partner with the University of Minnesota.

Single Point of Contact for Statewide System

- High level response team and timely delivery of customized services
- Meeting space for businesses and on-campus contacts
- Economic Development Fellows (Business Consulting Service)

Ways to Take Action
- Introduce yourself
- Contact us to find out more
- Connect us to others
- Invite us to visit
- Give us feedback
- Complete an online request
- Ask for a campus tour

www.frontdoor.umn.edu
Statewide Resources Available

Mission
Provide confidential, non-regulatory technical assistance to improve business performance and environmental outcomes

How Businesses Engage
• Site Assessments
• Intern Program
• Training
• Materials Exchange

Results 2011-2016
• 800 companies
• $4,000,000 implemented savings

www.mntap.umn.edu
Opportunities to Increase Engagement

Energy @ Arctic Cat
- Repair leaks – 130,000 kWh, $6,400 savings
- Optimize run time – 260,000 kWh, $15,000 savings

Water @ Northern Star
- Repair leaks, optimize levels, reuse water
- 30 million gal, $160,000 cost savings

Waste @ Tennant Company
- 2 tons of hazardous air pollutants eliminated
- Eliminated TRI reporting and TPPA fees

Take Action
✓ Share
✓ Promote
✓ Introduce
✓ Partner
✓ Support

www.mntap.umn.edu
Mission
To enhance the economic success of individuals, businesses, and communities by improving opportunities for prosperity and independence.

Example Connections
• Small Business Development Centers
• Minnesota Job Skills Partnership
• Innovation Vouchers
• Workforce Development
• Industry Support

http://mn.gov/deed/
How We Operate

• DEED must engage with partners, partners must engage with DEED
• Higher Education is part of our portfolio, statewide
• One project at a time....
• Reliance on partners