



## The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations

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The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) was created in 1996 [*Mn State Statute 124D.34*] to provide leadership and oversight of the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in Minnesota.

Career and Technical Student Organizations support the rigorous academic content of career and technical education (CTE) programs. CTSOs ensure students are meeting industry skill standards and are prepared for employment. They also provide students with a comprehensive framework of leadership, personal and employability skills. CTSOs are considered an integral part of student's CTE program.

**Current initiatives of the MFSO** include **providing opportunities to underserved populations**, ensuring nontraditional, underserved, and special populations can engage in meaningful participation in CTSOs, part of that effort has been addressing poverty in the classroom.

The MFSO also supports **student leadership through civic awareness**. Each year a select group of student leaders are invited to attend a “Day at the Capitol”. This event provides the students the opportunity to learn about advocacy and share the impact CTE has had on their life with their state Representative or Senator.

## Why CTSOs?

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- CTSOs help students develop “soft” skills. Each CTSO helps students develop life-long skills such as interpersonal relationships, teamwork, decision making, and setting and achieving goals.
- CTSOs help students develop **leadership skills**. Research has shown that CTSO members are more likely to take active roles in their community.
- CTSOs provide **experiential learning**. Each CTSO utilizes a hands-on approach to learning, whether it be leadership training or a competitive event.
- CTSOs provide opportunities for **recognition**. Students are provided a wide range of activities that showcase their skills and talents in an arena where they can be recognized by business and industry professionals.
- CTSOs offer members the opportunity to earn scholarships and other career and education related rewards for participation in leadership and competitive events.

