

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate Education Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) to express our strong support for Senate [File 2019](#), which would increase the award amount for innovative service-learning grants.

Service-learning is a powerful educational approach that combines meaningful community service with academic instruction. It empowers young people to address real-world challenges while developing critical thinking, problem-solving, civic, and leadership skills. As a leading authority in service-learning for over 40 years, NYLC has witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of these programs on students and communities.

Research consistently supports service-learning as an effective instructional strategy that engages students deeply in their own education. Studies have shown that participation in service-learning enhances academic performance, civic engagement, and social responsibility. For example, students involved in service-learning report higher levels of academic engagement, improved understanding of course concepts, and increased enthusiasm for learning compared to traditional classroom methods. Notably, service-learning has been linked to improved retention rates and higher grades, particularly among underrepresented student populations. By integrating authentic community-based experiences into the curriculum, service-learning creates meaningful opportunities for students to connect their education with impactful societal contributions.

Increasing funding for service-learning grants will allow more schools to implement high-quality programs, benefiting both students and communities. A high school student on our podcast, The Power of Young People shared, "when young people bring the power of their hearts, minds, and hands to bear on the pressing issues in their world, the result is authentic learning, engaged students and community members, and stronger communities."

We urge you to support SF 2019 and invest in the future of Minnesota's youth and communities. As Anne Frank wisely said, "Nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." By passing this bill, you can give more young people the tools and opportunities to do just that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Meuers".

Amy Meuers  
NYLC CEO