

MEET THE MOMENT



March 17, 2025



Dear Committee Members:

Voyageur Outward Bound School delivers programs to support the social-emotional wellbeing, growth, and future of students. This proven curriculum is delivered in the outdoors, using nature as classroom. Students participate in a deliberately designed social emotional progression that combines physical skills like canoeing, hiking, rock climbing with activity-based skill development in teamwork, compassion, learning interest, self-regulation, self-awareness and more.

Thanks to the YIP grant, Voyageur Outward Bound is able to bring these one-of-a-kind programs to students in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The programs give students historically excluded from experiencing Voyageur Outward programs and the outdoors an opportunity to adventure, explore, learn, and grow. **Over 400 students participate in a series of one day programs called INSIGHT as a result of the YIP grant each year – or 19,200 hours of programming. Over the course of the school year, each student has 48 hours of dedicated curriculum grounded in the Domains of Thriving Social Emotional Rubric.** This curriculum teaches social emotional skills in a safe space and include the following focus areas: Learning Interest, Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, Perseverance, Group Relationships, Assertiveness, Social Responsibility, Teamwork, through physical engagement, courage, belonging, and reflection. Every student is better going Outward Bound and our community is better as a result – the whole program comes full circle when students take their learnings – Outward – and are *Outward Bound*.

Whether it be at Lake of the Isles, Lebanon Hills, or Minnehaha Falls, student success grows when they have the opportunity to participate in nature and connect through hands-on learning and practice what they are learning in real-time and real-life. In fact, 70% of VOBS alumni state they are better leaders today because of going Outward Bound.

Because of YIP, students discovered and persevered, as individuals, and as *crew*. In 2024, **100%** of Twin Cities students surveyed agreed:

- *I have gained confidence to try new things.*
- *I am more aware of how to support those around me.*
- *I feel more connected to people in my group.*

It is imperative to continue these important programs and we value and need ongoing and increased support to meet demand. Your consideration, votes, and support changes the world, the community, and the future.

Thanks you for your consideration,

Stacey A Minnick
Director of Development