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Minnesota State Student Support

Senate Higher Education Committee

February 18, 2025

Course Resource Affordability

Success to Date from One-Time Funding

- Aggregate cost savings: **\$12,664,200**
- **10 colleges** offer zero-textbook cost paths to degree (“z-degree”)
- **12 colleges and universities** on track to implement or currently exploring possible z-degree pathways
- **4 additional colleges** substantively offer zero-textbook courses and implemented a course search feature identifying them
- **6,200** course sections transitioned to zero-cost materials
- **126,642** students enrolled in courses with zero-cost materials
- Faculty members from every college and university in the system use free, open educational resources in their courses

Demographic Information – Students taking zero-textbook cost courses

- Students who are pell-eligible took z-degree courses at a higher percentage (31%) than overall student population taking at least one course (28%)
- Students who are first-generation in college (26%) took z-degree courses at a slightly higher percentage than overall student populations taking at least one course (25%)
- Students of color who took at least one z-degree course is equal to those who are not students of color (both 25%)

Course Resource Affordability

What would we do with \$2 million base funding?

- Expand the number of and support for campuses exploring, implementing, and sustaining z-degrees
- Continue developing zero-textbook cost transfer pathways for systemwide impact
- Provide instructional design and technology support for developing the highest quality teaching and learning resources – free to students
- Provide additional access to paid library resources that are free to students

Basic Needs, Mental Health, & Other High Need Student Supports

- Campus leaders report increases in the number of students seeking support resources. Additional staffing is needed to support students. (\$32.5 million)
- Minnesota State, through funding in the last biennium, has established unique system-wide student support resources.
 - Centralized Basic Needs Resource Hub
 - 2,347 students served since launch in August 2022
 - 97% of students reported a positive experience
 - Mantra Health Supplemental Mental Health Platform
 - Launched at all 33 colleges and universities in September 2024
 - Over 1,300 students are receiving support from Mantra. Our goal is to more than double that number during the spring 2025 semester.
 - Emergency Grant Program (\$5.5 million)
 - 3,627 students have received a grant since launch in March 2024
 - Approximately \$2,500,000 has been allocated to students across the system
- Basic needs insecurity and lack of access to mental health care hinders student persistence.