



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

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STATE UNIVERSITIES

Bemidji State University*
Metropolitan State University
Minnesota State University,
Mankato
Minnesota State University
Moorhead
St. Cloud State University
Southwest Minnesota
State University
Winona State University

STATE COLLEGES

Alexandria Technical &
Community College
Anoka-Ramsey Community
College**
Anoka Technical College**
Central Lakes College
Century College
Dakota County Technical
College
Fond du Lac Tribal
& Community College
Hennepin Technical College
Inver Hills Community College
Lake Superior College
Minneapolis Community
& Technical College
Minnesota State College-
Southeast Technical
Minnesota State Community
& Technical College
Minnesota West Community
& Technical College
Normandale Community
College
North Hennepin
Community College
Northeast Higher Education
District
Hibbing Community College
Itasca Community College
Mesabi Range Community
& Technical College
Rainy River Community
College
Vermillion Community
College
Northland Community
& Technical College
Northwest Technical College*
Pine Technical College
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community
& Technical College
St. Cloud Technical
& Community College
Saint Paul College
South Central College

* Aligned
** Aligned

STEVEN J. ROSENSTONE
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February 25, 2014

Senator Terri Bonoff
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Room 325
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Bonoff:

Legislation passed during the 2013 session requires Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to adopt a policy recognizing, for applicants who are veterans, the applicant's veteran status as a positive factor in determining whether to grant admission to a graduate or professional academic degree program. I am pleased to inform you that at its March meeting our Board of Trustees is expected to adopt a policy in response to this requirement. Several of our universities have already developed policies to recognize veteran status as a positive factor in graduate school admission.

The 2013 legislation also requires the Board of Trustees to report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over higher education policy and finance annually on the number of veterans who apply for a graduate or professional academic degree program and the number accepted. The first annual report in response to this requirement is attached.

Prior to the enactment of this legislation, most of our state universities did not collect data on veteran status. They are therefore unable to provide accurate data on veteran applications and admissions for the past fiscal year. However, all the universities have now begun to collect this information and will be able to provide accurate data for the next annual report. This effort will be facilitated by the development and implementation this spring of a systemwide graduate online application that will include a question about an applicant's veteran status.

We serve more than 10,000 veterans, active military, and National Guard members – a 54% increase since the 2008 fiscal year. We are proud of the strides our colleges and universities have made in providing an inviting and supportive educational environment for Minnesota veterans. Each of our colleges and universities has achieved Servicemember Opportunity Colleges certification. We have achieved national recognition for our innovative Veterans

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Education Transfer System. Governor Dayton has awarded the system with Yellow Ribbon business status. We look forward to demonstrating our commitment to veterans at the graduate level as well as at the undergraduate level.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Rosenstone
Chancellor



John O'Brien
Senior Vice Chancellor for
Academic and Student Affairs

CC: Dave Kornecki, Committee Administrator
Maja Weidmann, Legislative and Fiscal Analyst
John Fuller, Senate Counsel
Legislative Reference Library

**Applications to Graduate Programs in Minnesota State Universities
Fiscal Year 2013**

University	All Applicants		Veterans	
	# Applied	# Admitted	# Applied	# Admitted
Bemidji State University	96	90	NA	NA
Metropolitan State University	886	694	20	16
Minnesota State University, Mankato	3114	1299	NA	NA
Minnesota State University Moorhead	376	215	NA	NA
Southwest Minnesota State University	351	320	2	2
St. Cloud State University	1615	1170	24	19
Winona State University	427	426	NA	NA

NA- Not Available. Prior to Fiscal Year 2014, Minnesota State Universities were not required to collect information on veteran status of applicants for graduate study.