



Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations Biennium Report

February 2015

For more information contact:
Emily Saed, Executive Director
emily.saed@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
651.274.7456
www.mnfso.org

ESTIMATED COST OF PREPARING THIS REPORT:

This report provides information which is maintained by the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations as a part of its normal business functions. Therefore, the cost information reported below does not include the cost of gathering the data but rather is limited to the estimated cost of actually analyzing the data, determining recommendations and preparing this report document.

Special funding was not appropriated for the cost of preparing this report. The estimated cost incurred by the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations in preparing this report is **\$348.00**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 Summary
- 5 Mission
- 5 History

The Biennium

- 6 Staffing
- 6 Operations
- 7 Funding
- 8 Leadership Initiatives
 - 8.1 CTSO Non Profit Best Practices
 - 8.2 Alumni Development
 - 8.3 Day at the Capitol
- 9 Underserved, Nontraditional and Special Populations Support
- 10 Student Organizations
- 12 Conclusion

Additional Information

- 13 Attachment A Funding Distribution
- 14 Attachment B Legislative Principles
- 15 Attachment C Definitions
- 16 CTE FAQ

SUMMARY

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) is the collective umbrella co-curricular career and technical student organizations (CTSO) reside under in Minnesota. The MFSO was created in 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature to bridge the public and private funding of the CTSO. The MFSO acts as an independent state agency and monitors legislative funding to co-curricular career and technical student organizations. The MFSO provides guidance to the Career and Technical Student Organizations it serves in the following areas: Leadership Training, Conference Support, Board Development, Legislative Initiatives and Individual CTSO Grants. The MFSO serves the following career and technical student organizations:

Secondary

BPA – Business Professionals of America
DECA – Marketing Education
FCCLA – Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
FFA – Agriculture and Agribusiness education
HOSA – Health Occupations
SkillsUSA – Technical and Industrial Occupations

Post Secondary

BPA – Business Professionals of America
DECA – Marketing Education
PAS – Post Secondary Agriculture Students
SkillsUSA – Technical and Industry Occupations

Highlights over the past 2 years include:

MFSO Board Development
CTSO Board Development
Alumni Growth
Underserved, Nontraditional and Special Populations

The MFSO continues to maintain a strong working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota State College and Universities.

MISSION & HISTORY

Mission

The MFSO promotes and supports career and technical student organizations as they work to provide student opportunities for leadership, personal development, community service and career preparation.

History

Career and technical student organizations have served students for over 70 years. After federal legislation provided for agriculture and homemaking education, FFA (Future Farmers of America) and FHA (Future Homemakers of America) were established. As new career initiatives were added at the state level, other career and technical student organizations were developed.

Originally, all student organizations were state and federal programs, which over the years evolved into independent 501 c3 non-profit organizations. With the advent of the School-to-Work Program, student organizations developed a much higher profile as an integral part of the educational process where students experienced application of skill and developed personal leadership qualifications.

In 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature agreed to boost support for this extremely important component of the education process by creating the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations to bridge the public and private funding of career and technical student organizations. Modeled after the highly successful Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the legislature established the group and appropriated monies for not only the operation of the Foundation, but also for disbursement to the various student organizations for their operations. Additionally, they charged the Foundation with the responsibility of securing additional funding through outside sources of support for these same student organizations.

THE BIENNIUM

Staffing

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) currently has one part time staff employed by contract: Executive Director, Emily Saed. Saed has been with the MFSO since November 2003.

The MFSO maintains a relationship with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) through a contractual agreement. The MDE provides oversight and necessary administration for the Legislative dollars granted to the career and technical student organizations (CTSO) and any additional public funding received.

Many of the individual CTSO work closely with state specialists. This allows them to continue to receive guidance on curricular issues affecting their students and advisors.

Operations

The MFSO completed it's own Board Development project. The Training was conducted in 3 phases: Phase 1: Education, An overview of Career and Technical Education; Phase 2: Purpose and Mission, Basic Board Training; and Phase 3: Strategic Planning, Review of the Bylaws

One of the primary responsibilities of the MFSO continues to be assisting the CTSO with their grants, administered through the MDE. The MDE works closely with the CTSO to complete their grant paperwork: desk reviews, reimbursement requests and financial management questionnaires. All of the CTSOs have completed at least one desk review via the grants management division of the MDE.

In the past biennium, there have been significant changes within the CTSO. While several of the CTSO have experienced tremendous growth, the MFSO managed the dissolution of one organization due to continuously declining membership and lack of national support. The MFSO also assisted two CTSO through executive transitions.

The MFSO maintains a physical address at the MDE: 1500 Highway 36, Roseville MN 55113. The MFSO also maintains a mailing address at: PO Box 25212, Saint Paul MN 55125. The MFSO has acquired a new web domain: www.mnfso.org. The website features up to date MFSO information, CTE links and CTSO information.

Funding

\$725,000.00 was received each fiscal year in the Biennium. These funds were disbursed according to Legislation. We are in process of requesting a change to the E12 Omnibus funding:

The previous allocation in the E12 Omnibus Education Bill for Student Organizations includes Service Occupation Education/HERO. That student organization no longer exists, either in Minnesota or at the National level. Because of the decreasing membership and lack of national support of HERO, in 2013 the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations in cooperation with the MDE Grants Management Division determined the student organization HERO no longer met the qualifications to receive their grant. As a result, HERO was dissolved by their Board of Directors.

The new legislation would appear as the following:

116.17 Subd. 14. Student organizations. For student organizations:

116.18 2014 \$725,000.....

116.19 2015 \$725,000.....

116.20\$46,000 each year is for student organizations serving health occupations (HOSA).

~~116.21\$43,000 each year is for student organizations serving service occupations (HERO).~~

116.22\$100,000 each year is for student organizations serving trade and industry

116.23occupations (Skills USA, secondary and postsecondary).

116.24\$95,000 each year is for student organizations serving business occupations (BPA,

116.25secondary and postsecondary).

116.26\$187,000 each year is for student organizations serving agriculture occupations

116.27(FFA, PAS).

116.28\$142,000 each year is for student organizations serving family and consumer science

116.29occupations (FCCLA).

116.30\$109,000 each year is for student organizations serving marketing occupations

116.31(DECA and DECA collegiate).

116.32\$46,000 each year is for the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations.

116.33Any balance in the first year does not cancel but is available in the second year.

The MFSO continues to receive support from the MDE and MnSCU for special projects. The focus continues to be on Underserved, Nontraditional and Special Populations.

Leadership & Development

The MFSO has provided oversight and guidance to the CTSO for over a decade in many ways including: independent fund development, best practices, seminars for students and advisors, collaborative activities and grant management. The past biennium was no exception.

8.1 CTSO Non Profit Best Practices

The MFSO worked with each CTSO construct a Board Development and Best CTSO Practices presentation that met their needs. Each presentation covered: Basic Board Duties, the Duty of Care and Fiduciary Responsibilities, Organization and Effective Functioning and Internal Board Evaluation. The MFSO followed up with the CTSO to ensure they had made necessary changes to their policy and procedures to reflect the training. All of the CTSO were required to receive the training.

8.2 Alumni Development

The MFSO introduced a grant for CTSO to apply for with the specific goal of strengthening the Alumni of the organization. The MFSO believes Alumni are the backbone of any organization and are essential to it's success. Alumni can be used in many capacities: to mentor current student membership, act as ambassadors for the organization to industry and assist with skilled competitions and general conference activities.

DECA Secondary, BPA Secondary and BPA Post-Secondary and FCCLA participated in the project. In keeping with the requirements of the federal Carl Perkins award monies, the CTSOs were awarded funding only after the activity was complete and the MFSO Executive Committee had received a satisfactory report of the results and impact of the activities. The CTSO developed databases, allowing them the ability to track their membership and maintain communications and two of the participating CTSOs were able to develop promotional materials and also elected an alumni coordinator to manage the activities. The MFSO will continue to monitor the alumni development of each of the participating student organizations for growth and active participation.

8.3 Day at the Capitol

The MFSO held it's third annual Day at the Capitol. CTSO work collaboratively to bring their message to the Capitol. Career and Technical Student Organizations are an important part of our education system in Minnesota. As well providing a prepared and skilled workforce for tomorrow, they are developing the minds of the best and brightest student leaders today. It is important for our legislators to meet these student leaders see the impact of CTE and CTSO.

The event was 2 days. The MFSO provided the participating students training the evening prior. They learned about the different CTE student organizations, basics of state government, and meeting etiquette. The students, along with their Advisor or Executive Director, met at the Capitol on February 11th to celebrate CTE week. That day they met with 17 Representatives and Senators, were able to tour the Capitol and attend a committee meeting or general session time permitting. All of the CTSO supported by the MFSO attended the event.

Underserved, Nontraditional and Special Populations Support

Throughout the last biennium, the MFSO has sought to identify reasons students have not able to engage in meaningful participation in [or in some cases even access to] CTSO and assist the CTSO in creating both “real” and financial solutions to overcome those obstacles.

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Office of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; the MFSO worked with the CTSO through a competitive grant process to achieve this.

The following were barriers identified by the MFSO through the application process:

Financial. Students are not able to participate in a meaningful way in CTSO activities (including those related to TSA and leadership skills) due to prohibitive costs.

Nontraditional Gender Related Education and Career Paths. There remains a gender bias with particular career areas. This bias stigma inhibits nontraditional students from meaningful participation in co-curricular activities including CTSOs.

The project directly impacted five high schools and indirectly impacted more than 80 throughout the state of Minnesota. In many cases the CTSO had not previously been accessible to the students and instructors/advisers for financial reasons. “We are excited to continue working with our Student Organization, and want to thank you for the opportunity to access funding through the Special Populations Grant for our new chapter...directed at getting non-traditional and minority students into opportunities related to career and education. Our chapter is made up of 100% students of color, and 65-70% free and reduced lunch. This is an outstanding group of young people who have tremendous things to offer...and would not have this opportunity otherwise,” said one CTSO adviser that benefited from the project.

The MFSO was able to provide support to 8 student organizations, who in turn were able to provide both direct and in-direct support to students and instructors in more than 80 institutions [high school, technical centers and colleges] across the state. The impact of this support was immediate for the student; the student who would otherwise not have had this opportunity. The leadership tools they have received will be with them throughout their education and professional career.

Financial support was renewed by both the MDE and MnSCU for FY15. Placing the MFSO in second year of this project. We anticipate equally successful results. The MFSO is currently working with MnSCU for an expanded FY16 proposal. The full FY14 report can be found at www.mnfsso.org.

The Career and Technical Student Organizations

The student organizations are recognized as a co-curricular by the Minnesota Department of Education and all programs are offered as integral to the curriculum. All of the CTSO are part of national organizations. The student organizations are all governed by a Board of Directors, elected by teachers that advise local chapters.

Chapters are run by student members with advice and assistance from local teachers. The CTSO provide opportunities to learn the correct way to hold a productive business meeting. Chapter activities are recognized as a part of the total educational program because they develop leadership skills, professional attitudes, business competency, citizenship characteristics and social growth of the individual.

They use on-the-job experience, chapter projects, and competency based competitive events programs allowing students to compete in skilled competitions. Business and industry leaders also play a vital part in career and technical student organizations. These leaders assure that career and technical training programs stay current and meet industry technical standards. They volunteer to speak to students about their industry or job seeking & keeping skills, they help to design and judge the hands-on skill competitions at the local, state and national level, and donate supplies and equipment for student use in the school setting.

The career and technical student organizations emphasize academic and career excellence and help to demonstrate the all-important direct relationship between curriculum and the real needs of business and industry.

Student Organizations supported by the MFSO:

The mission of Minnesota DECA and Collegiate DECA is to enhance the education of all students with interests in marketing, management or entrepreneurship while meeting local & state initiatives. DECA assists students in developing skills and competencies for marketing careers, while building self-esteem, experiencing leadership, and providing community services. This is accomplished through local, state, and national activities and competitive events.

The mission of Business Professionals of America (BPA) is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. Minnesota BPA provides educational experiences that further develop social intelligence, civic consciousness, leadership skills and self-esteem for its members.

The Minnesota FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA is a vital part of learning. The FFA award and degree programs recognizes students for excellence in academics, career development, leadership and community service. The Minnesota FFA Organization celebrates leadership, communications, team work, problem solving, character, community service and citizenship.

The National Postsecondary Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization provides opportunities for individual growth, leadership and career preparation. Members develop skills for life through: Character Development, Creative and Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Communication, Practical Knowledge and Vocational Preparation.

The mission of FCCLA is to promote personal growth and leadership development through service occupations. Focusing on the multiple roles of the family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through: Character Development, Creative and Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Communication, Practical Knowledge and Vocational Preparation.

SkillsUSA Minnesota creates opportunities for students, educators and business. This is accomplished through leadership training, volunteerism opportunities, competitions and conferences, which enhance students' self-worth and employability skills to create a seamless transition into the workforce.

The mission of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community.

Conclusion

The MFSO was very successful in the FY14-15 Biennium. The MFSO saw the success of several projects including support to underserved populations; alumni development, and the introduction of best practices into the CTSO Boards.

The MFSO provided opportunities for the student organizations to work collaboratively through officer training, round table discussions and Day at the Capitol.

In the upcoming biennium the MFSO will continue to provide those collaborative activities. The MFSO will also continue to support underserved, nontraditional and special populations in cooperation with the MDE and MnSCU.

And most importantly, over the course of the next Biennium, the MFSO will continue to strive to provide the necessary leadership and guidance to make the organizations it serves more successful.

The Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations is charged with a variety of responsibilities by the Minnesota Legislature including monitoring public funding received through the legislature. In some cases more than one CTSO receives funding within a “line item” and/or area of study. In which case the MFSO uses the following formula to distribute funding:

The funding formula has three components:

The base dollar amount was created using the 60% determination in each of the career area lines (with more than one organization) and settling on the lowest. To adjust the remaining funds were allocated based on 60/40. (In those line items where only organization is recognized this formula does not apply.) The components are:

Part A - Base Funding

- This plan distributes \$30,300.00 of funds equitably to each individual CTSO for the “operating base.”

Part B - Chapter Factor

- After the “operating base” has been allocated forty percent (40%) of the remaining funding is allocated on the basis of nationally affiliated chapters.

Part C - Membership Factor

- The sixty percent (60%) of the remaining funding is allocated on the basis paid state and national members served.

Attachment B

Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations Legislative Principles

The MFSO Supports:

- the continuation of funding for all vocational, career and technical student organizations operating in secondary and post-secondary institutions.
- the continued disbursement of state funding for vocational, career and technical student organizations through the Board of Directors of the MFSO;
- providing students the opportunities to access and participate in secondary and post secondary career and technical education programs, including student organizations.
- occupational licensing procedures that supply both secondary and post-secondary institutions with an adequate number of skilled instructors of vocational, career and technical programs and student organizations.
- funding for replacement of equipment needed by vocational, career and technical education programs in order to stay current and relevant.
- applied learning environments and class sizes that provide individual instructor attention to students and increase parent-teacher cooperation and foster effective teaching.
- education employees receiving adequate compensation and quality preparation; including, improving preparation programs to make them practical in application and relevant to the classroom.
- the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities bonding initiatives as needed for the maintenance, growth and development of career and technical education programs within the Minnesota State College System.
- the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities student activity fees being spent exclusively on student activities.
- the continuation of funding Carl D. Perkins at the federal level; and the development of additional streams of revenue at the state and local level to support career and technical education programs.
- student organizations' right to organize at the state and national level.
- reaching underserved populations and providing meaningful leadership experiences within career and technical education programs.
- culturally diverse activities within all vocational, career and technical student organizations at the secondary and post secondary level.

Organization:

A career and technical state organization must:

- satisfy all requirements to be in good standing with the national organization;
- have at least 300 members;
- have at least 10 active chapters; and
- have a maximum of two organizations that are recognized for each of the 7 career areas as defined in in M.S. 124D.34*.

Chapter:

A career and technical student organization chapter must:

- be part of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) state approved program;
- be a state and nationally recognized, chartered chapter; and
- have ten (10) or more members that meet CTE grade level guidelines (currently 9-14).

Member:

A chapter member must:

- be a student who has fully paid state and national CTSO dues for the current year;
- be enrolled in an approved CTE program at a Minnesota education school or college in grade levels that meet state CTE guidelines.

Reporting:

Each CTSO organization must:

- Comply with the MDE grant management reporting requirements;
- report the current year's student membership and chapter numbers to the MFSO office prior to June 1 of each fiscal year;
- submit to an audit at the discretion of the MFSO Board of Directors.

Why Career and Technical Education?

50% of graduates with bachelors degrees under the age of 25 are UNEMPLOYED or UNDEREMPLOYED

By 2030, 70 million people will have retired while only 41 million new skilled workers will have entered the workforce.

Minnesota

CTE Enrollment:

Secondary (High School): 94,818 students

Post Secondary (College): 68,354 student

Graduation and Performance of CTE Students:

98 percent of Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school students graduated

78 percent met performance goals for reading/language arts skills

85 percent of CTE post-secondary students met performance goals for technical skills

Perkins Funding:

Minnesota received \$16,684,637 for Fiscal Year 2013, the same as in 2012 which is \$2.7 million less than in 2010. Funds distributed through consortiums are allocated at 42 percent to secondary and 58 percent for post-secondary programs.

Why Career and Technical Student Organizations?

CTE in conjunction with an integrated Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) are highly effective in decreasing dropout rates and keeping students engaged in learning.

- 81% of dropouts stated that more “real world” learning would have influenced them to stay in school.

Students who participate in CTOSs earned more A's and B's (as well as fewer D's) than those who were not. Students in CTE which also participated in a CTOS were also involved in more extracurricular and volunteer activities.

- 93% of school administrators found CTOSs to be effective at developing leadership skills.
- 90% found CTOSs to effective in improving academic performance.
- 95% found them to be an effective tool in keeping students engaged in school.

In 1996 the Minnesota Foundation for Student Organizations (MFSO) was established to ensure support for the CTOS. The MFSO currently receives 725K annually to support the operations of the agency and the nine CTOS it serves.

