

**Statewide
Concurrent Enrollment
(18 Online)
Teacher Training Program
Report to the Legislature**

1/15/24

Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program Report to the Legislature as required by Minnesota Statute 122A.76

Submitted by: Jeremy Kovash, Executive Director, Lakes Country Service Cooperative

The report was prepared by staff at Lakes Country Service Cooperative (Minnesota Statute 123A.21) with aid from staff from The Minnesota Service Cooperatives, Minnesota State University-Moorhead and Minnesota State's Office of Academic and Student Affairs

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1. Executive Summary – Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

In 2016, The Legislature originally responded to a pilot program in Northwest Minnesota. The Northwest and Lakes Country regions cover 90 member districts. In data collection from member districts, we learned that of our 300+ concurrent enrollment teachers, approximately 75% need additional graduate course work to comply with Higher Learning Commission requirements. This pilot program was to meet the needs of concurrent enrollment instructors in the Lakes Country and Northwest Service Cooperative regions of Minnesota. The program and the legislative appropriation began the process of creating course content and admitting high school teachers into Minnesota State University/Moorhead (MSUM) for master's level coursework and courses beginning in January 2016.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC), the fiscal host, is a public, nonprofit membership-based organization dedicated to providing services that help make our members successful. LCSC is one of nine service cooperatives in the State of Minnesota. In this project, we are collaborating with all service cooperatives by ascertaining teacher needs in each region. Additionally, statewide partners such as MASA (Minnesota Association of School Administrators), MASSP (Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals), MSBA (Minnesota School Boards Association), MREA (Minnesota Rural Education Association, Pathway to 18 and the Minnesota State system office have assisted with data collection and recruitment efforts.

LCSC is committed to providing high quality, efficient services that meet members' needs. LCSC also serves as a liaison to state agencies and has partnerships with numerous businesses and associations that provide opportunities to our members. LCSC's dedicated staff provides leadership and assistance in a diverse range of services to members. We continually listen to and work with members to design and implement innovative programs and services. Together, we build relationships that help make all members stronger.

The Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Program Manager is Josh Nelson, LCSC's Director of Education Programs. Mr. Nelson is a licensed Business Education teacher, K-12 Principal, and Superintendent. He has previous experience in PreK-12 systems as a Secondary Business Education teacher and Secondary School Principal. Mr. Nelson has served as the Manager of Education Services at LCSC since 2008. As part of his role, Josh manages over \$3,000,000 in grant activity on an annual basis.

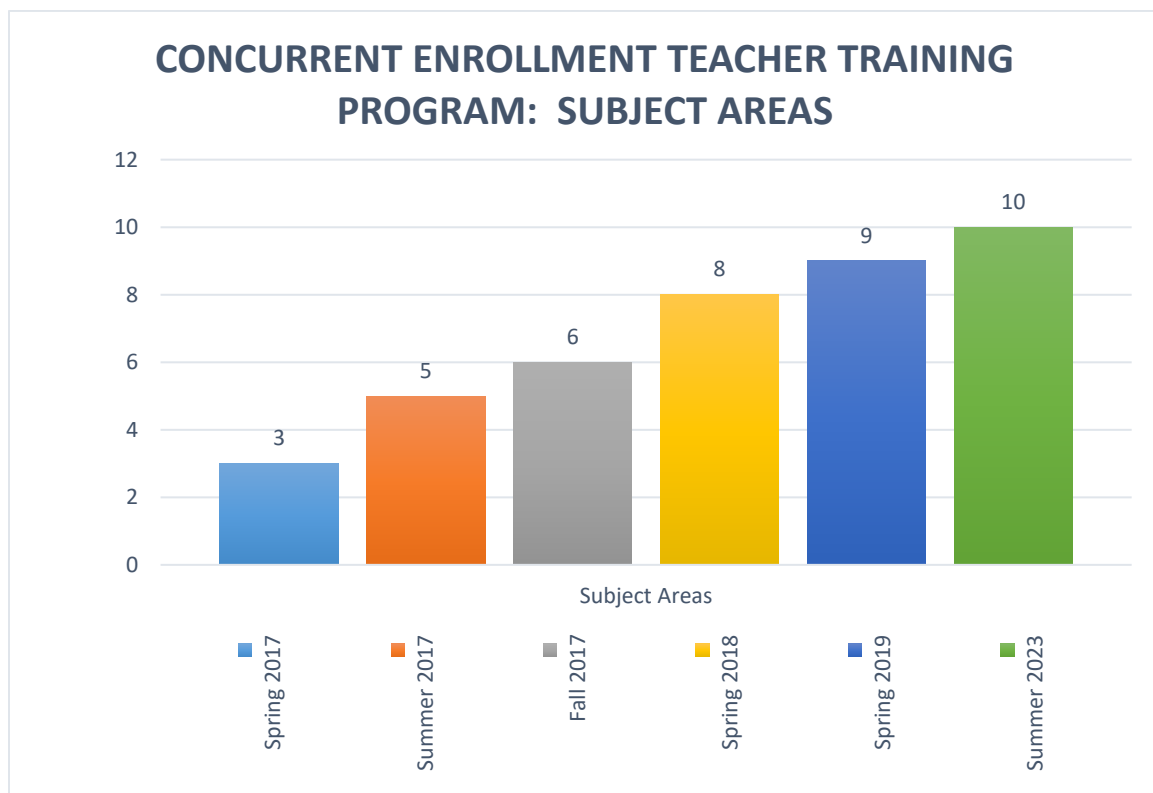
MSUM has developed an online education curriculum to allow eligible secondary school teachers to attain graduate credit at a reduced credit rate in multiple content areas. All content developed as a part of this project will qualify and contribute to teachers meeting the Higher Learning Commission requirements. MSUM also provides instructors for all graduate courses and oversees the enrollment process and all details related.

While we know the work is ongoing, we are proud the outcomes of this program contribute to 32,440 Minnesota High School Students earning 198,544 College Credits, according to Minnesota State data from the 22-23 school year.

2. Data and Graphs – Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

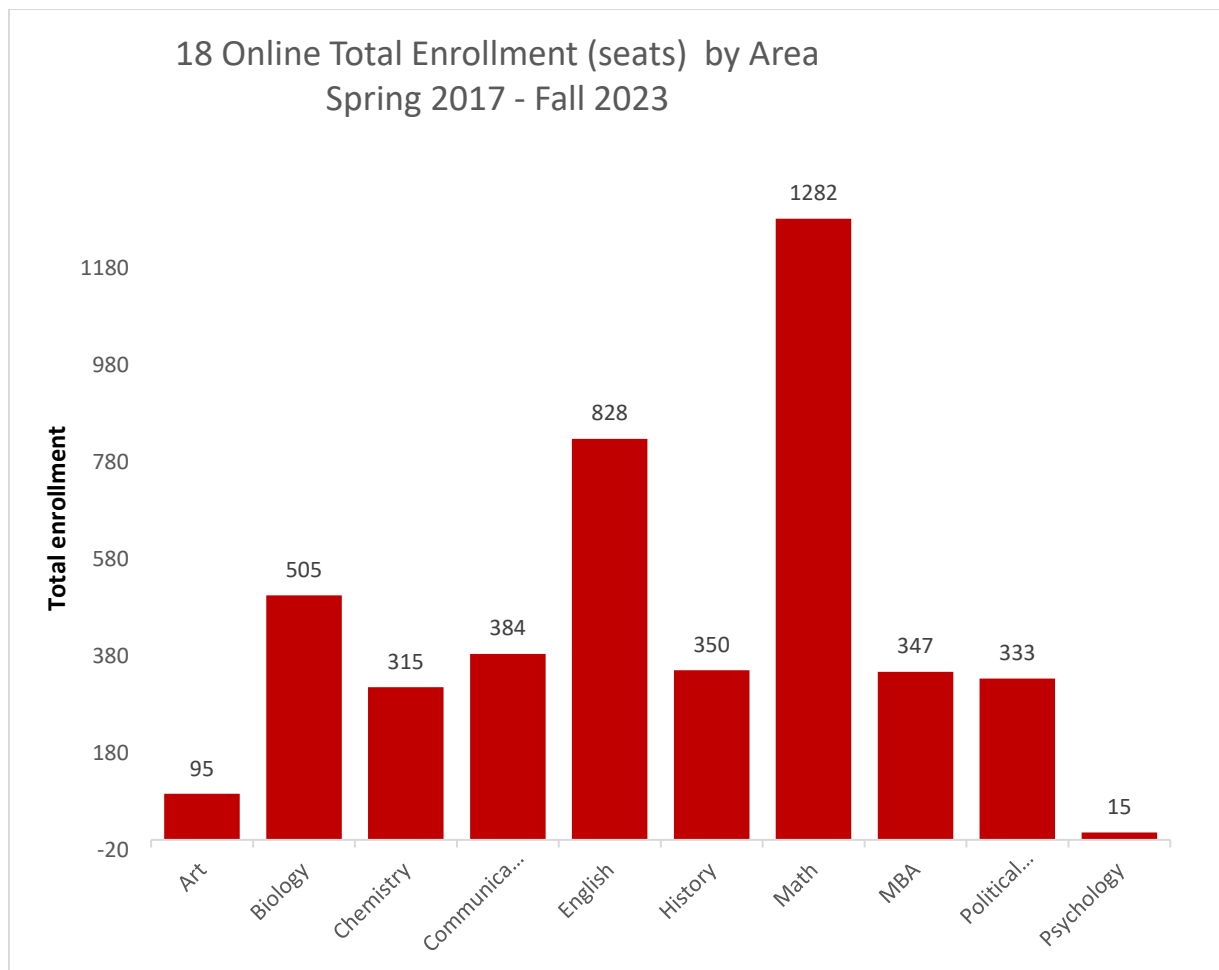
I. SUBJECT AREAS

Beginning in the summer of 2016, after legislative passage, staff from Lakes Country Service Cooperative and Northwest Service Cooperative collaborated with department heads at MSUM to develop high-quality, effective programming for online course development of master's level courses. Working with each department and leadership at MSUM, we were able to begin online asynchronous courses in January of 2017. Our first three content areas were subject areas of extremely high need: Math, History, and English. We added Communications and Biology in the summer of 2017, Political Science in the fall of 2017, Business and Chemistry in the spring of 2018, and Art for the spring of 2019. MSUM has recently added additional staff in Mathematics to support the program and demand in this subject area. We are happy to report that Psychology has been added in the summer of 2023. We continue to develop and dialogue with other departments and additional courses are in development.



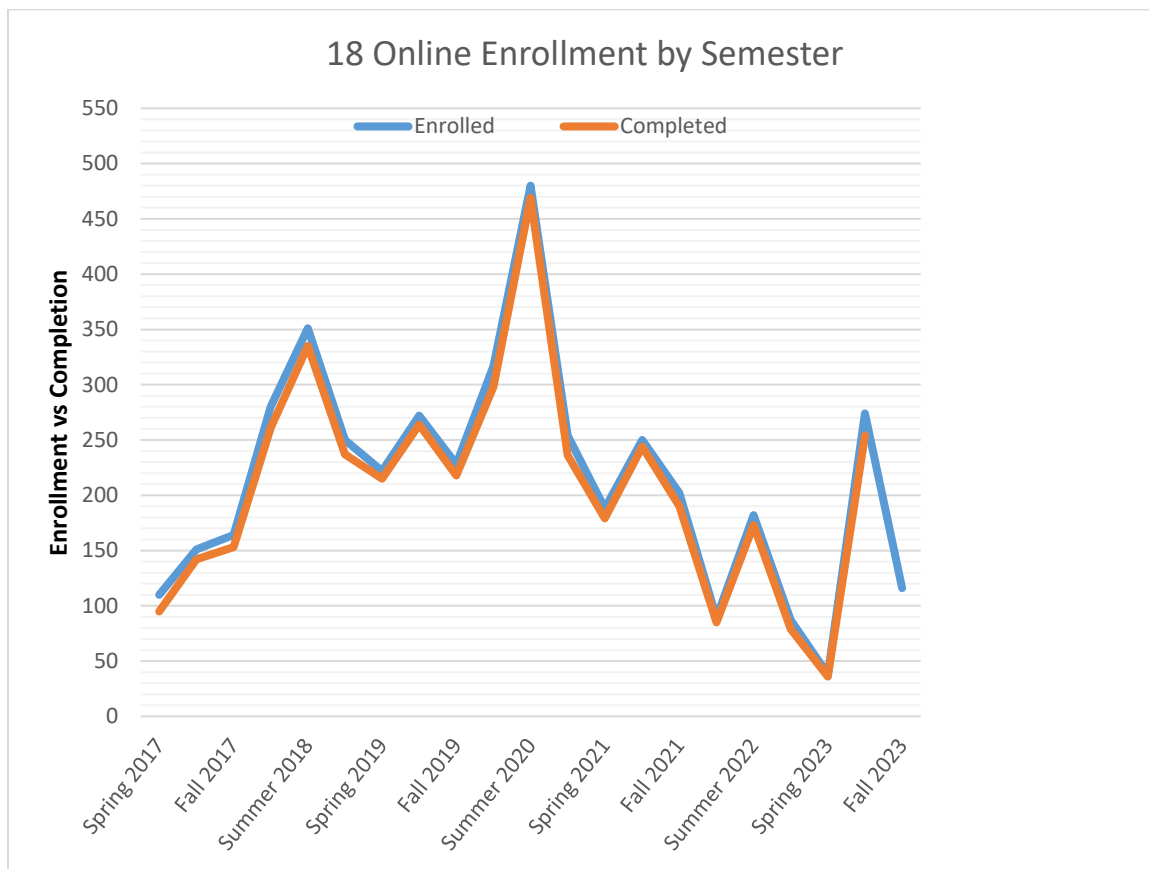
II. Courses Offered - Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

Each master's level course developed by MSUM faculty meets the high-quality standards of the University. These are 500 or 600 Level University courses designed to give high school teachers access to high quality content to match their strengths in teaching pedagogy. Early courses include Plant Evolution, Communication Theory, American Newcomers, Advanced Studies in Shakespeare, The Late Roman World and Mathematical Problem Solving. Each department at MSUM offering courses is developing cohorts of at least 18 graduate credits to meet Higher Learning Commission guidelines.



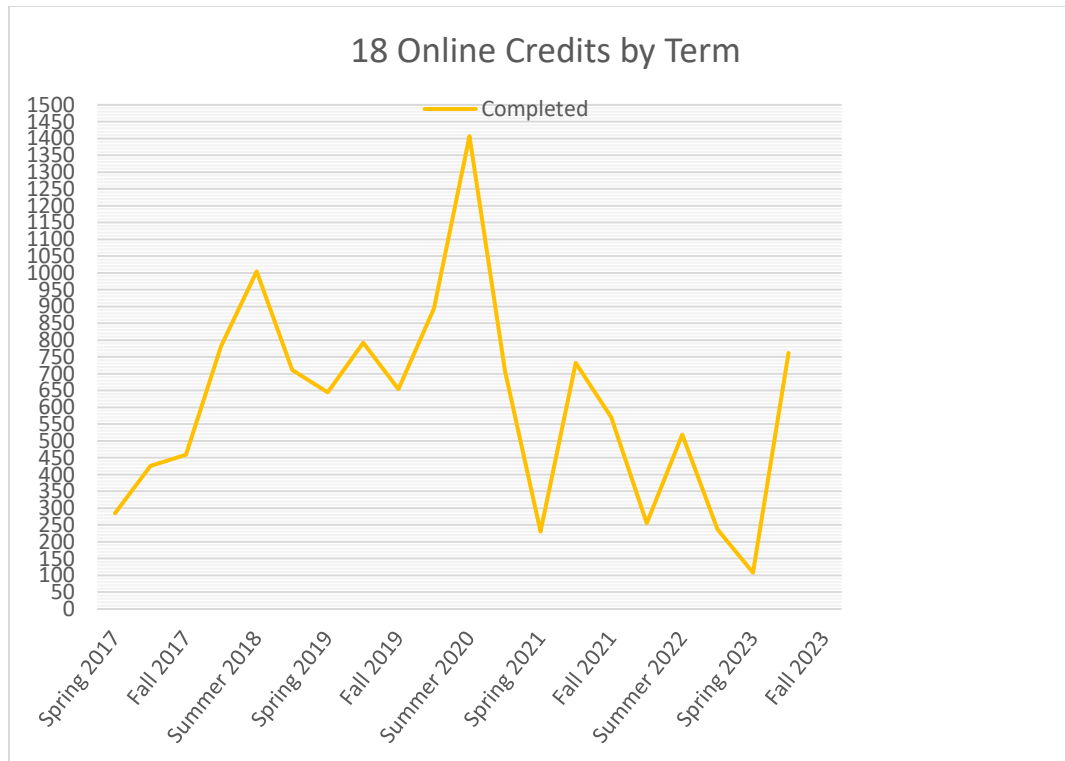
III. Enrollment by term- Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

We have ascertained that summer offerings are the most attractive for concurrent enrollment instructors and anticipate a strong array of offerings in the summer of 2024. In addition to advertising openings through the Minnesota Service Cooperatives and databases, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) will share open courses with administrators throughout the state of Minnesota. The enrollment data below shows the number of teachers who have enrolled on our courses. Some teachers will enroll in multiple courses to attain the 18 required credits.



IV. Credits Earned - Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

The ultimate goal of the program is to continue Minnesota's strong tradition of concurrent enrollment courses offered to our high school students. To do so will continue to be a major undertaking. We expect continued growth as Minnesota State University-Moorhead and other college partners build capacity. However, resources may soon become limited and capacity among colleges to deliver master's level content is limited. It is our goal that these developed courses will continue to serve teachers throughout Minnesota. In addition, it is our hope colleges will continue to develop master's level curriculum for the next generation of teachers that integrates high quality content with exceptional pedagogy in curriculum and instruction. Additional funding by the State of Minnesota may be necessary to build additional capacity, hire additional college faculty and grow the program to ensure the future of concurrent enrollment throughout Minnesota. These funds will be necessary to continue savings for Minnesota students and families.



3. HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER DEMOGRAPHICS: Statewide Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program

To date, the Statewide Partnership has accepted 1948 total concurrent teachers from approximately 300 school districts in Minnesota. Not every accepted teacher into the program has enrolled in a course. The enrolled teachers have taken coursework in 10 different subject areas as detailed above and have earned over 13,000 credits toward approval. The regional breakdown is by service cooperative region.

- Lakes Country Service Cooperative (Fergus Falls) – 266 Teachers
- Brightworks (Arden Hills) – 422 Teachers
- Northeast Service Cooperative (Mountain Iron) – 162 Teachers
- Sourcewell (Staples) – 75 Teachers
- Northwest Service Cooperative (Thief River Falls) – 241 Teachers
- Resource Training and Solutions (Sartell) – 282 Teachers
- South Central Service Cooperative (North Mankato) – 130 Teachers
- Southeast Service Cooperative (Rochester) – 224 Teachers
- Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative (Marshall) – 143 Teachers

4. FINANCIAL REPORT: Annual Budget

	GRANT OPPORTUNITY TITLE:		
OBJECT	DESCRIPTION		
CODES		BUDGET AMOUNT	BUDGET NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION - ROLE ON PROJECT
110	Administration/Supervision/Management	\$22,722	Online 18 Project Manager - Promote the Online 18 program to PreK-12 administrators and teachers in Minnesota. Manage the budget, evaluation process, and oversee the execution of logistical details. Adjunct Faculty Replacement at MSUM.
210-299	200 SERIES BENEFITS	\$7,403	
305	Tuition Payments to staff enrolled in coursework	\$329,774	Travel expenses to meet with teachers to set up programs of study. Testimonials or reports to MDE and legislators as requested throughout the project; Additional efforts to promote the program statewide at conferences and among partners.
320	Communications	\$500	Electronic and other communications
366	Travel	\$1,500	Staff applicable travel
TOTAL		\$375,000	

5. Appendices

APPENDIX A:

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MINNESOTA STATUTES 2023

122A.76

122A.76 STATEWIDE CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Northwest Regional Partnership" means a voluntary association of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative, the Northwest Service Cooperative, and Minnesota State University-Moorhead that works together to provide coordinated higher learning opportunities for teachers.

(c) "State Partnership" means a voluntary association of the Northwest Regional Partnership and the Metropolitan Educational Cooperative Service Unit.

(d) "Eligible postsecondary institution" means a public or private postsecondary institution that awards graduate credits.

(e) "Eligible teacher" means a licensed teacher of secondary school courses for postsecondary credit.

Subd. 2. **Establishment.** (a) Lakes Country Service Cooperative, in consultation with the Northwest Service Cooperative, may develop a continuing education program to allow eligible teachers to attain the requisite graduate credits necessary to be qualified to teach secondary school courses for postsecondary credit.

(b) If established, the State Partnership must contract with one or more eligible postsecondary institutions to establish a continuing education credit program to allow eligible teachers to attain sufficient graduate credits to qualify to teach secondary school courses for postsecondary credit. Members of the State Partnership must work to eliminate duplication of service and develop the continuing education credit program efficiently and cost-effectively.

Subd. 3. **Curriculum development.** The continuing education program must use flexible delivery models, such as an online education curriculum, that allow eligible secondary school teachers to attain graduate credit at a reduced credit rate. Information about the curriculum, including course length and course requirements, must be posted on the website of the eligible institution offering the course at least two weeks before eligible teachers are required to register for courses in the continuing education program.

Subd. 4. **Funding for course development; scholarships; stipends.** (a) Lakes Country Service Cooperative, in consultation with the other members of the Northwest Regional Partnership, shall:

- (1) provide funding for course development for up to 18 credits in applicable postsecondary subject areas;
- (2) provide scholarships for eligible teachers to enroll in the continuing education program; and
- (3) develop criteria for awarding educator stipends on a per-credit basis to incentivize participation in the continuing education program.

(b) If established, the State Partnership must:

- (1) provide funding for course development for up to 18 credits in applicable postsecondary subject areas;
- (2) provide scholarships for eligible teachers to enroll in the continuing education program; and
- (3) develop criteria for awarding educator stipends on a per-credit basis to incentivize participation in the continuing education program.

Subd. 5. **Private funding.** The partnerships may receive private resources to supplement the available public money. All money received in fiscal year 2017 shall be administered by the Lakes Country Service Cooperative. All money received in fiscal year 2018 and later shall be administered by the State Partnership.

Subd. 6. **Report required.** (a) The Northwest Regional Partnership must submit a report by January 15, 2018, on the progress of its activities to the legislature, commissioner of education, and Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The report shall contain a financial report for the preceding year.

(b) If established, the State Partnership must submit an annual joint report to the legislature and the Office of Higher Education by January 15 of each year on the progress of its activities. The report must include the number of teachers participating in the program, the geographic location of the teachers, the number of credits earned, and the subject areas of the courses in which participants earned credit. The report must include a financial report for the preceding year.

History: 2016 c 189 art 25 s 58; 1Sp2017 c 5 art 2 s 48; 1Sp2019 c 11 art 3 s 24

APPENDIX B: Partners –Statewide Partnership

Lakes Country Service Cooperative:

Jeremy Kovash	Executive Director
Josh Nelson	Deputy Director of Education Programs
Melissa Walvatne	Deputy Director of Finance

Minnesota State University-Moorhead

Dr. Ok-Hee Lee	Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Boyd Bradbury	18 Online Liaison
Dr. Yamaya Sosa	Director of Graduate Studies
Dr. Robert Nava	Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Vice President

Minnesota Service Cooperatives

Anne Kilzer	Executive Director
Roger Moe	Advocate
Sam Walseth	Advocate
Dr. Bruce Jensen	Northwest Service Cooperatives
Dr. John Schultz	Brightworks

Additional Statewide Partners

Bob Driver	Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Bob Indihar	Minnesota Rural Education Association
Dr. Deb Henton	Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Kirk Schneidawind	Minnesota School Boards Association
Jessica Espinosa	Minnesota State