

A More Global Minnesota

Notes from Leadership Council, March 5, 2013

There is growing international interdependence and globalization of the world economy.
This includes Minnesota.

How do we prepare students to be global citizens? How do we prepare our students to participate in an increasingly international community here in Minnesota and in ways that connect Minnesota to the world?

Minnesota Has Grown More Global

- 10.4% of Minnesotans are foreign born or have a foreign born parent (versus < 3.7% in 1970)
- Minnesota is host to the largest Somali population in the United States
- The Twin Cities is host to the largest Hmong community in the world outside of Asia
- Minnesota has the largest group of Oromo – an ethnic group from Ethiopia – outside of that country.
- 2nd largest group of Tibetans in the U.S.
- West African refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone
- An estimated 300,000 Latinos
- Minneapolis public schools report more than 90 languages other than English are spoken in its students' homes
- St. Paul public schools report 41% of their students come from a home where one of more than 100 languages or dialects is spoken.

Minnesota's Economy is Tied to the Global Economy

- \$20.3 billion in 2011; growing about 7% a year
- 12% agriculture; 56% manufactured goods; 32% services
- Twin Cities exports are projected to double over the next five years
- Key sectors: aircraft parts; electronic integrated circuits; medical devices; iron ore; agriculture; plastics; manufactured goods
- Exports to over 200 countries
- Top nations Minnesota exports to: Canada, China (+22%), Japan (+15%), Mexico (+24%), Germany, Korea (+12%)

Minnesota Jobs Depend on Exports

- 97% of Minnesota exporters are small and medium sized firms
- > 6,600 Minnesota firms export
- 39% of firms that export had < 19 employees
- 60,000 Minnesota manufacturing jobs depend on exports
- 177,000 jobs in the Twin cities depend on exports

How Should Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Better Prepare Graduates, in all Fields, to Participate in a Global Economy?

This requires leadership and a portfolio of actions. Some suggestions include:

1. Expand language competency (especially in Spanish, Chinese/Mandarin, German, French, Japanese, and Korean) and competency in cross-cultural communication.
2. Deepen students' understanding of diverse cultures, societies, political and economic systems through coursework, internships, study abroad, and other experiences.
3. Expand courses on key topics such as international economics and global marketing.
4. Develop international partnerships that involve collaboration in teaching and research and the exchange of students and researchers.
5. Draw upon the global resources of people and international companies within Minnesota.
6. Develop collaborate efforts with other colleges and universities to leverage resources, partnerships, and scale.
7. Consult with OGC on details of international academic programs before entering into agreements.