

Dear Friends:

In this election year, we are reminded again of the critical role that Minnesota's 17 private colleges play in educating each generation of students. Yes, with more than 55,000 students, we help shape the future workforce. But equally important is how we nurture active citizens. It may sound expansive, but it is true: Minnesota's private colleges contribute to the health of our democracy. In fact, it is an institutional aim that is spelled out in each college's charter.



Through funds for operations and scholarships, our donors recognize the importance of the colleges' citizenship mission. Consider Diane Tran, a student at the College of St. Scholastica who has been particularly active in the community, both at a local and international level. A recipient of Minnesota Private College Fund support, in the form of a Directors' Scholarship, Diane says her scholarship allowed her to "place all my energy on my service and civic engagement endeavors." This commitment to service and community ties together all of our colleges, students and the partners who contribute to the Minnesota Private College Fund.

This is an important time for Minnesota and private colleges. We anticipate fewer high school and college graduates, at the same time that we'll see increasing numbers of degree-holding Minnesotans move into retirement. This is particularly troubling for some scientific and technical fields, where the need for local brainpower is great. While our colleges already award nearly half of the state's math and science baccalaureate degrees, we need to do more. And another key challenge continues to bedevil our state: increasing ethnic diversity has highlighted the untenable gap in academic achievement and pursuit of higher education among children from diverse backgrounds. A education at Minnesota's private colleges helps graduates from low-income minority families to achieve the same success as white students from more affluent families. But we need to ensure we are helping more first-generation students succeed in school and move into private colleges.

As our colleges work to address these challenges, we recognize that the Fund's donors want to participate as well. Two new scholarship funds have been created this year that allow donors to directly address these challenges:

- the Access and Equity Scholarship Fund will support students with financial need who are students of color, first-generation students or new Americans; and
- the Galileo Scholarship Fund supports students with financial need who are studying in the science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines.

As we look forward to the work we can do together, it is valuable to pause and reflect on the positive impact of our donors' generosity. It is certainly palpable for our students and the colleges; this report aims to capture a glimmer of that impact and convey the benefits of this important philanthropic support.

On behalf of Minnesota's private colleges and students, we thank you for furthering the education of the state's next generation. You are ensuring that today's students are well prepared to lead us into the future.

Cordially,
David B. Laird Jr.
President

MISSION

To preserve and enhance quality private higher education dedicated to serve the education and economic needs of our region while strengthening our cultural and economic fabric.

ABOUT THE MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGE FUND

The Minnesota Private College Fund has a 54-year history of fundraising activity providing Minnesota students access to high-quality education. Each year, every dollar raised goes directly to member schools and their students, augmenting the development efforts of our 17 member private colleges and universities. Since its inception in 1951, the Fund has raised more than \$74 million.

The Fund raises money for two purposes:

- **General Operating Support**, absolutely essential funds used to pay for books, lab equipment, computers, utilities, maintenance and other needs.
- **Scholarship dollars** to annually provide more than 400 students from low- and middle-income families the means to obtain a quality college education.

Now entering its 55th year, the Fund continues to help meet the needs of our 17 member campuses and their more than 55,000 students through generous contributions from our donors. ■

Minnesota Private College Fund Contributors, 2005-2006

\$200,000 and above	Years of Support	\$5,000 - \$9,999	Years of Support	\$1,000 - 4,999	Years of Support
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				Tozer Foundation	13
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Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota	26	Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation	38	United Building Centers	42
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Minnesota Private College Fund Contributors, 2005-2006

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