

LTFS Talking Points

The real crisis is the creation of a plan that compromises the quality of higher education in Minnesota.

- *We recognize that many of our institutions are under financial stress.*
- *We have encountered and weathered these situations in the past by making some compromises, but by also putting our students at the forefront of our decision making process.*
- *This plan shifts the focus from our students receiving a quality education to promoting a business-like model (aka McKinsey and Charting the Future part 1) that puts financial efficiencies first.*
- *This is just an excuse to implement an agenda.*

Minnesota values call for an extraordinary higher education that is accessible and affordable for all Minnesotans.

- *Our students' needs should come first.*
- *No one should be left behind.*
- *We haven't forgotten what our core values are (see below).*

The autonomy of all colleges and campuses is valuable and needs to be recognized. Each contributes to the economic and cultural vitality of our state and communities.

- *There's a reason it's called a "community" college.*
- *Our connections to communities are multi-faceted.*

Financial transparency is essential for understanding the complete financial picture at an institution.

- *Simply altering assumptions can create just about any appearance.*
- *The financial status of an institution often resembles a shell game.*

Bigger is not always better. Simple is not always more efficient.

- *Financial efficiency does not necessarily equal good education. We are an educational institution and not a business.*
- *Loss of institutional identity has a cost.*

Faculty, all faculty, are at the core of the educational process. Devaluing and de-professionalizing faculty devalues the entire education system.

- *We are proud of how we value part-time faculty.*

- *All faculty, whether full or part-time, work toward a common goal...To provide our students with a high quality education.*
- *What kind of organization seeks to create a second class of workers?*
- *This agenda goes back to the original Charting the Future.*

Minnesota maintains a high standard of living as a direct function of quality higher education.

- *We don't want to be a cold Mississippi.*
- *The for-profit higher education models, such as Globe, Corinthian, and the University of Phoenix, are proving to be fundamental failures.*

MSCF Core Value Statement

MSCF believes in a permanent, professional faculty; fair treatment for all faculty whether full or part time; faculty control and direction of an academically rigorous curriculum; faculty control and direction of professional development including sabbaticals; benefits and security for faculty and their families including domestic partners; true academic shared governance; access, rigor and opportunity for students; true education, not fads or short-sighted political agendas. (Adopted by the MSCF Board of Directors, September 18, 2009)