



Minnesota's Future: World-Class Schools, World-Class Jobs

Update: July 6, 2009

The Itasca Project and the Minnesota Business Partnership released our “Minnesota’s Future Report” in February 2009. The report, produced by McKinsey and Company, addressed two key questions:

- How does Minnesota’s education system compare with the best in the world?
- What can we learn from them to deliver better education to students in Minnesota?

Following release of the report, Itasca, the Partnership and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce formed a leadership team¹ to define and follow through on action steps in the following areas:

TRANSFORM TEACHER TRAINING

Lynn Casey, chair and CEO, Padilla Spear Beardsley
Peter Hutchinson, president, Bush Foundation

- The Bush Foundation formally joined the Minnesota’s Future initiative in May and is receiving project management and strategic consulting support from McKinsey and Company.
- The foundation has selected 9 partner schools of education (or coalitions)² in Minnesota and the Dakotas who convened on June 25-26 to launch their efforts to transform the way teachers are recruited, trained, placed and assessed.

RECRUIT TOP TEACHING TALENT FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES TO HIGH-NEED SUBJECTS AND AREAS

Dick Pettingill, retired president and CEO, Allina Hospitals and Clinics

- Lawmakers rejected legislation authorizing Teach for America and the New Teacher Project.
- Both programs, however, have provisional authorization through the state board of teaching.
- TFA has raised \$2.7 million in Minnesota. Beginning this fall, TFA will bring 120 new teachers over the next three years to work in the Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park school districts and charter schools.

PROVIDE TOP-QUALITY PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

John Stanoch, Qwest Minnesota president
Chip Emery, retired chairman and CEO, MTS Systems

- Leadership Academy for New Charter and Alternative Schools: 1) Recruited all requested mentors; 2) Members are providing facilities and speakers for all requested dates.
- Principal Leadership Academy: 1) Recruited four of 10 requested mentors; 2) Members are providing facilities and speakers for all identified dates.

USE DATA TO DRIVE PERFORMANCE

Bruce Nicholson, chairman, president and CEO, Thrivent Financial

- Continue to search for pro bono programmers and project managers to fill requests identified by the Minnesota Department of Education.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tom Tiller, retired CEO, Polaris Industries

- Negotiated pro bono services from Himle Horner Inc. and developed a preliminary communications plan built on demonstrating progress before seeking attention.
- Initial meeting with Star Tribune editorial writers generated a supportive piece.
- Met June 29 with representatives from 15 foundations³ to present our report, discuss our work plan and request feedback. Reaction was encouraging, with interest in ongoing communications.

¹ **Leadership Team:**

Tom Tiller Retired CEO Polaris Industries	Peter Hutchinson President Bush Foundation	Dick Pettingill Retired President & CEO Allina Hospitals and Clinics
Lynn Casey Chair and CEO Padilla Spear Beardsley	Bruce Nicholson Chairman, President & CEO, Thrivent Financial	John Stanoch Minnesota President Qwest Communications
Chip Emery Retired Chair & CEO, MTS Systems	David Olson President Minnesota Chamber of Commerce	Charlie Weaver Executive Director Minnesota Business Partnership

² **Bush Foundation partners:** Dickenson State University, MSU Mankato, MN/ND partnership (MSU Moorhead, NDSU, Valley City), St. Cloud State, Teach for America, Twin Cities Private College Consortium (Augsburg, Bethel, Concordia, Hamline, St. Catherine, St. Thomas), U of M, USD (Vermillion), and Winona State.

³ **Foundations represented at June 29 meeting:** 3M, Bush, Cargill, Carlson Family Foundation, Friends of Ascension, General Mills, George Family Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation, Qwest, St. Paul Foundation, Target, Travelers, US Bancorp, Wallin Foundation and Wells Fargo.

MORE INFORMATION

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