



## Minnesota College Access Network

"Building a Network to Impact College Pathways  
for all Minnesotans."

October 2008

### FINANCIAL FOCUS SERIES: STARTLING STATS

This fall MCAN will host a series dedicated to financial options for Student Parents, Foster Children, American Indian Students, African American Male Students and Undocumented Students. **These sessions are FREE for MCAN members. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

#### MCAN E-Alerts

As a member of the Minnesota College Access Network, you will receive these e-alerts with news on college access in Minnesota and around the country.

If you are not a member yet, visit our website at [www.mncollegeaccess.org](http://www.mncollegeaccess.org) to join online!

Here are some startling statistics about these populations:

- Independent students (including student parents) are less likely than dependent students to apply for financial aid. They are more likely to receive Pell Grants (61 to 34 percent), but less likely to receive grants from states (19 to 24 percent) or institutions (15 to 35 percent).<sup>1</sup>
- Foster youth dream big: a Casey Family Programs report found that 68 percent planned to attend college; and 22 percent intended to further their education beyond college. However, the rate at which college-qualified foster youth attend postsecondary education (20%) is substantially below the rate at which their peers attend (60%).<sup>2</sup>
- About half of American Indian students have remaining need after financial aid; of those with remaining need, the average amount is \$4207.<sup>3</sup>
- The shift from need-based aid to merit-based aid has affected Black males disproportionately, as they are among students most likely to be from low-come backgrounds and have financial need and among those least likely to access student loans.<sup>4</sup>
- The Pew Hispanic Research estimates the number of undocumented immigrants in Minnesota to be between 55,000 and 85,000.<sup>5</sup>

For a detailed description of each session, please see the [event website](#). To join us for one or all of the sessions, [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

### WELCOME NEW MCAN MEMBERS

Anoka Hennepin Technical College: Tracy Batsell and Kim Roan

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St. Paul, MN

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[www.mncollegeaccess.org](http://www.mncollegeaccess.org)

<sup>1</sup> Understanding Independent Students. Inside Higher Ed. October 24, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Wolanin, Thomas R. Higher Education Opportunities for Foster Youth, A Primer for Policy Makers. The Institute for Higher Education Policy. December 2005

<sup>3</sup> The Path of Many Journeys, The Benefits of Higher Education for Native People and Communities. Institute for Higher Education, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and American Indian College Fund. February 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Kane, John and Spizman, Lawrence M. Race, financial aid awards and college attendance. American Journal of Economics and Sociology. January 1994

<sup>5</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights, Fact Sheet: Undocumented Students (Minnesota). 2008



## INVESTING IN HIGHER ED PAYS OFF: A Message from MCAN Executive Director, Jennifer Godinez

Many of you probably reiterate a thousand times in your college access program the concept that a higher education provides not only a greater earning potential for every student—but also greater opportunities from a rewarding lifelong career...This Fall, I get to live out an experience that brings back several “returns on my investment” in my own higher education. I am very proud to share with you all that I will be traveling to Europe from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 on a [German Marshall Fund Fellowship \(GMF\)](#) to learn from global leaders educational, political and social issues affecting people in Europe. [Jennifer’s message continues here.](#)

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## NEWS AND LINKS

### National News

#### Pell Grants Said to Face a Shortfall of \$6 Billion

Battered by a worsening economy, college students are seeking federal financial aid in record numbers this year, leading Bush administration officials to warn Congress that the most important federal aid program, Pell Grants, may need up to \$6 billion in additional taxpayer funds next year. [Read the article here.](#)

### Local News

#### 2008 State of Students of Color & American Indian Students in Minnesota Conference

The 2008 State of Students of Color & American Indian Students in Minnesota conference will be held on November 6, 2008. Early-bird registration ends 10/15/08. [Register now.](#)

## Tools and Resources for College Access

### Minnesota Fact Sheets

MCAN has collected information on special populations highlighted in our Financial Focus Series. Click here to access these [Fact Sheets](#).

### Information to Help with the College Admissions Process

Applying to college takes thought, effort, and organization. Our tools and expert advice at College Board that can help you keep track of applications, apply to college online, and write solid admission essays. [Find resources here.](#)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).  
Questions or comments? [Email us](#) or call Amanda Ziebell-Finley at 651-645-7400 ext. 201