



A PROGRAM OF THE MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION

ALL KIDS LEARN: A MINNESOTA MEETING SERIES ON K-12 EDUCATION

## Introduction

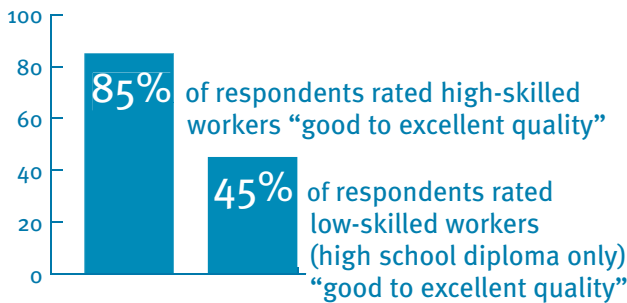
The mission of Minnesota Meeting is to provide a forum for Minnesota business and community leaders to hear from and question local, national, and international leaders from all areas of human endeavor, from politics and economics to art and technology. Minnesota Meeting does not represent a particular viewpoint or ideology. Instead, it is committed to the belief that citizens must be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions in order to actively participate in community life in a democratic society. Minnesota

Meeting strives to produce programs that bring light not only to the issues in today’s headlines, but also to issues that will shape tomorrow’s political, cultural and economic landscape.

Formed in 1982 by a group of senior Minnesota business leaders, Minnesota Meeting became a program of The Minneapolis Foundation in 2004. ALL KIDS LEARN, the premiere series produced by the Foundation, focused on K-12 education in Minnesota.

## Minnesota companies value local workforce, believe more preparation needed.

A Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis survey of Minnesota companies elicited mixed reactions to workforce readiness in Minnesota. The survey, conducted in September 2003, garnered responses from 651 companies.

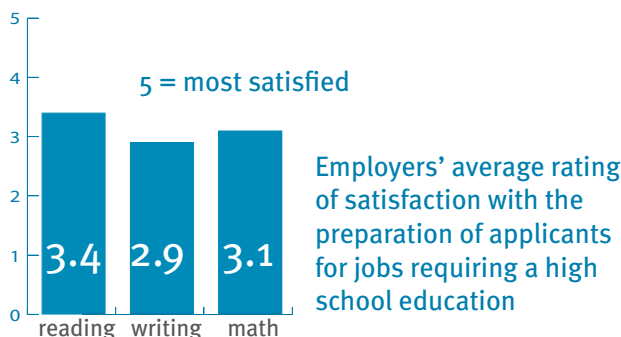


- 74% of respondents agreed that labor quality is a top consideration in making location and expansion decisions
- 63% rated the quality of Minnesota workers as “better” or “much better” than workers in other locations.
- 66% rated Minnesota K-12 schools (both public and private combined) as “good to excellent” in preparing students for the workforce
- “A number of respondents commented that low-skilled workers are poorly equipped with basic education, workplace ethics and etiquette skills.”

SOURCE: “Workforce quality top consideration for Minnesota companies.” *FedGazette*. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. 9/03

## Minnesota employers give preparation of low-skill workers an average grade.

The Minnesota Business Partnership conducts a biannual survey of 150 Minnesota employers. The 2002 survey was conducted in partnership with the Employers Association, Inc.



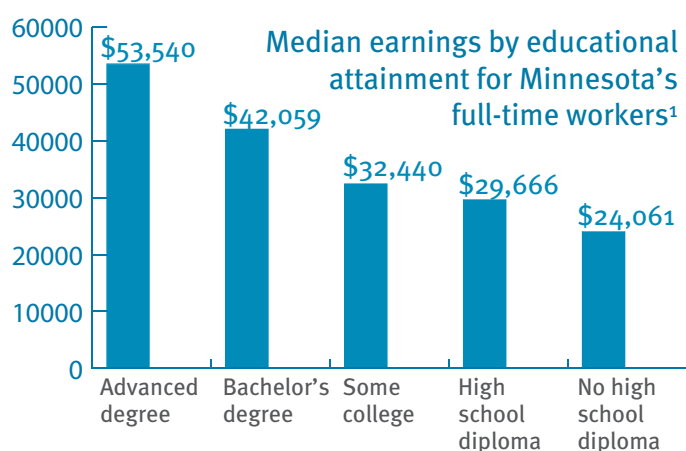
- Participating employers’ overall satisfaction with the education of applicants for jobs requiring a high school education: 3.4 out of 5
- Estimated amount of participating employers’ training budget that was spent on remedial education: 52%

## National job growth projections 2002-2012

- The occupations expected to gain the most new jobs are diverse. Workers in these occupations have a wide range of education and training requirements, earnings, and job responsibilities.
- Sixteen of the 20 projected fastest growing occupations are in healthcare or computers. Earnings are highest for workers in computer-related jobs.
- Many large-growth, high-paying occupations are projected to be available for workers who typically have on-the-job training or some education other than a bachelor's degree.
- For professional and related occupations, computer and mathematical science occupations are projected to grow more than twice as fast as the average for all occupations.

SOURCE: *Occupational Outlook Quarterly* Winter 2003-04, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Graduation rates, higher education, earnings, and workforce participation.



- 64% of Minnesota high school graduates enrolled in a post-secondary institution the fall following graduation in 2002 (compared to 62% nationally in 2001)<sup>2</sup>
- Graduation rates are alarmingly low for students of color (see table below).<sup>3</sup>
- For students who do graduate from high school, however, the gap is narrowing between white students and students of color who enroll in post-secondary institutions.<sup>2</sup>

GRADUATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY MN <sup>3</sup>	% graduated in 4 years
African American (3,398)	39%
American Indian (1,297)	43%
Asian/Pacific Islander (2,893)	68%
Hispanic (1,264)	47%
White (56,532)	83%

POST-SECONDARY PARTICIPATION RATES MN <sup>3</sup>	% enrolled in a Minnesota post-secondary institution immediately following graduation in 2002
African American	44%
American Indian	40%
Asian/Pacific Islander	57%
Latino	40%
White	50%

SOURCES: <sup>1</sup>"Workforce First," Growth and Justice, using 2000 census data: median incomes for full-time workers (aged 21 through 64) in Minnesota. <sup>2</sup>Minnesota Higher Education Services Office. Note: participation rates by race available only for in-state post-secondary enrollment. <sup>3</sup>Minnesota Department of Education. Number of 9th grade students served during the 1997-98 school year and their last reported status after the 2000-01 school year.