

# Minnesota Adult Learners

**Toyia Younger**

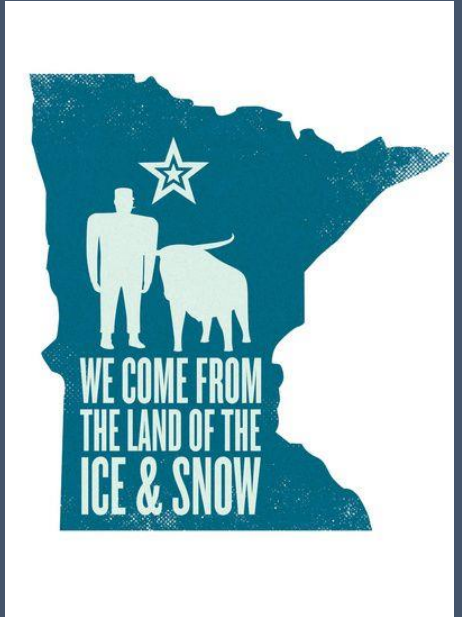
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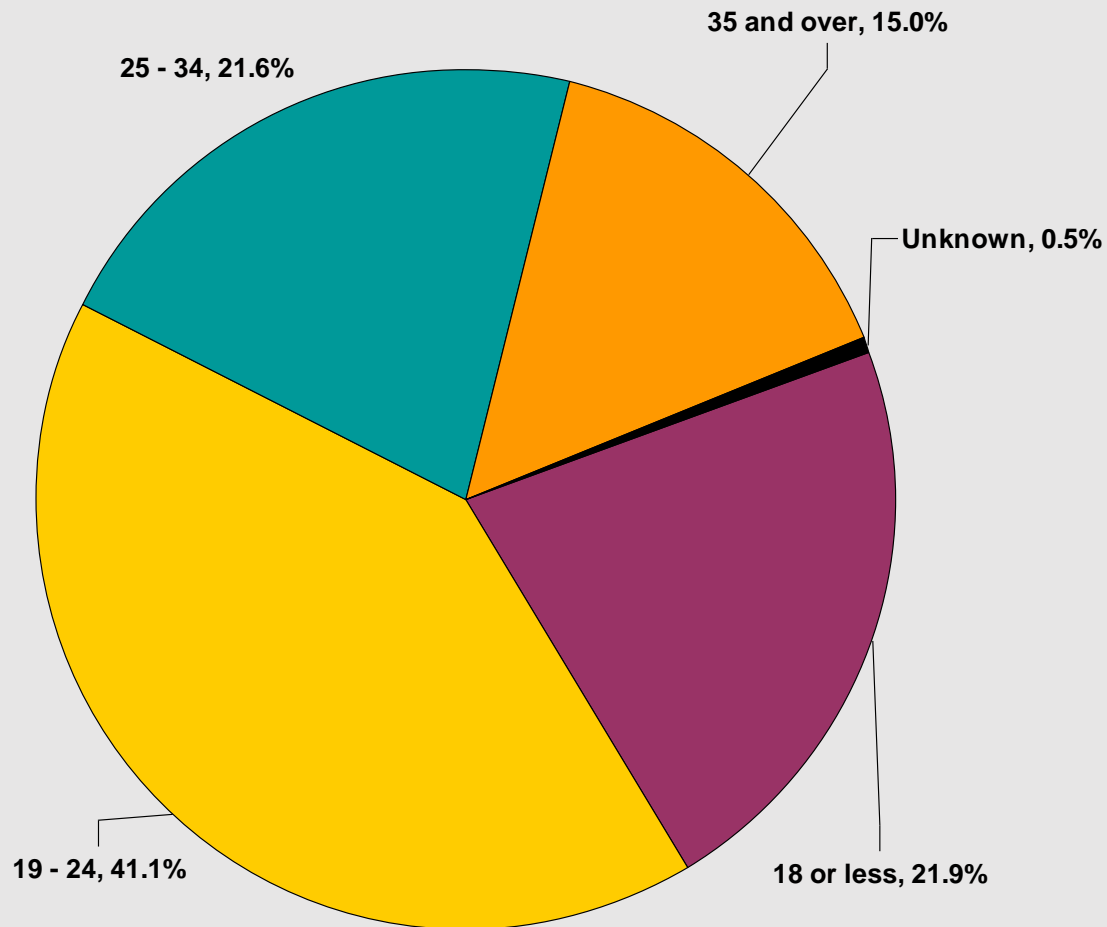
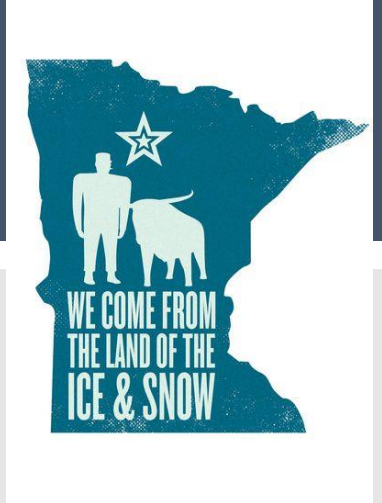
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**Friday draft  
3:40 pm**

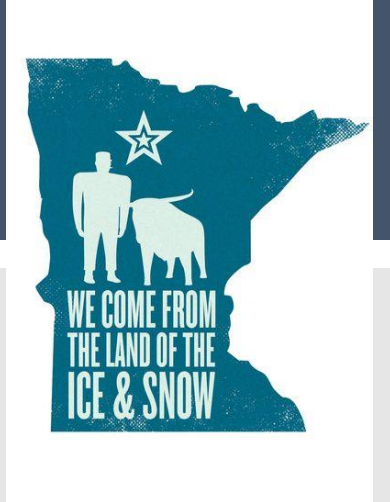
# AGE DISTRIBUTION ACROSS MNSCU



**Total Credit Headcount = 259,549  
fiscal year 2015**

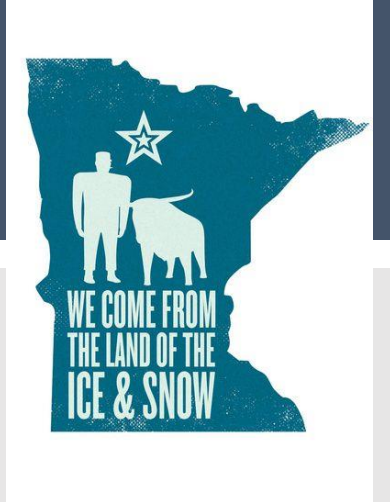
**Adult Learners (25+ years of age)  
94,995 (37%)**

# Minnesota Initiatives



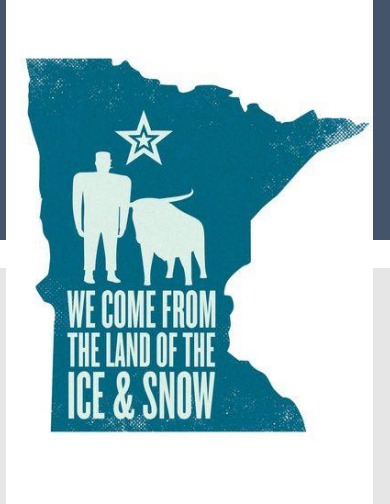
- Graduate Minnesota
  - Degree completion initiatives
- FastTRAC
  - Employment, adult basic education and higher education partnership
- MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant
  - Pilot program
  - Minnesota's version of Tennessee Promise/Free College

# Graduate Minnesota



- Four-year grant funded by the Lumina Foundation
- Focused on degree completion among adult learners who had left MnSCU college and universities prior to graduating
- In 2011, 660,000 adults (23.1%) had begun college but not obtained a college degree
- Graduate Minnesota campaign launched to re-engage those who attended MnSCU institutions, and to raise their awareness about credit for prior learning options
- Campaign focused on postcard and email outreach
  - Email emphasized tuition freeze, no-cost course through the Alliss grant program, and linking degree completion to current career goals

# Graduate Minnesota



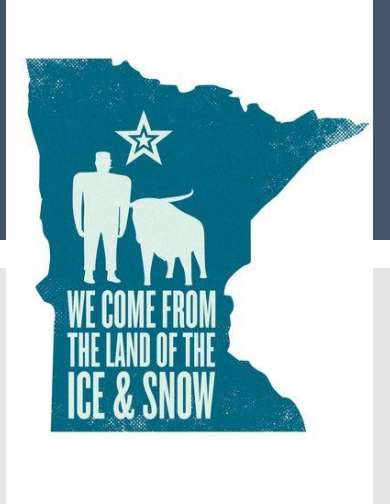
## ■ Outreach

- Reached out to 40,697 adult learners, via U.S. mail
  - Connected with a total of 36,891
- Email blast to 19,168

## ■ Results

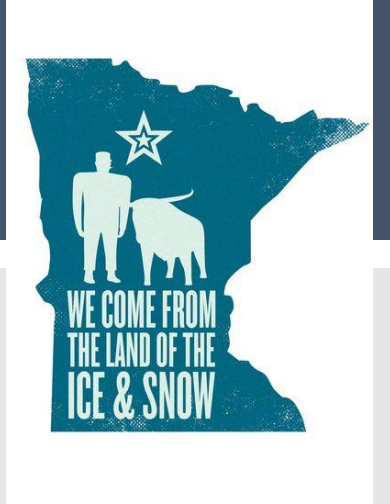
- 2,928 (7.9%) enrolled in a **MnSCU** institution the following year
- 1,554 (4.2%) enrolled in a non-MnSCU institution the following year
- In total, approximately **12%** enrolled as a result of this outreach
  
- Of those enrolled at a **MnSCU** institutions, 782 (26.7%) earned a credential
- Of those enrolled as a non-MnSCU institution, 248 (16%) earned a credential

# Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways



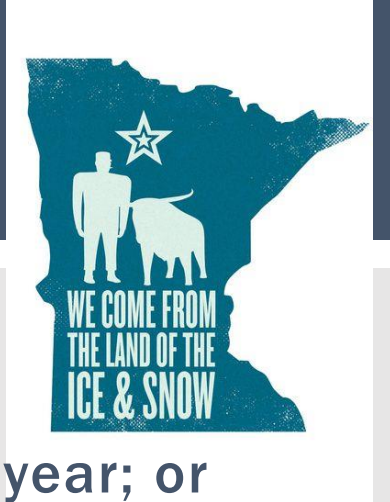
- Adult achievement initiative, building career pathways along an educational and training continuum, from foundation preparation to post-secondary program completion
- Partnership between MnSCU, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Mn Department of Education Adult Basic Education, and Mn Department of Human Services
- Goal: Training for employment in high-growth, high-demand occupations
- Key program components
  - Contextualized post-secondary and adult basic education instruction
  - Career development
  - Wrap around support services
- Funded by Joyce Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, and Greater Twin Cities United Way

# Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways



- 84 pathways over the four years, primarily in health sciences and manufacturing career clusters
- Total Participants: 5,191
  - 3,473 (67%) participants beginning in a bridge course
  - 1,718 (33%) participants entering at the integrated level
- Nearly half of the integrated coursework was credit based
- Outcomes
  - Of those completing a pathway, 72% continued college enrollment
  - 74% of those who went on to earn a credential were employed after completion (a gain of 20%)
  - 6 month earnings for pathway completers increased an average of \$2,718; their median age rate increased \$2.54/hr, from \$8.65 to \$11.19

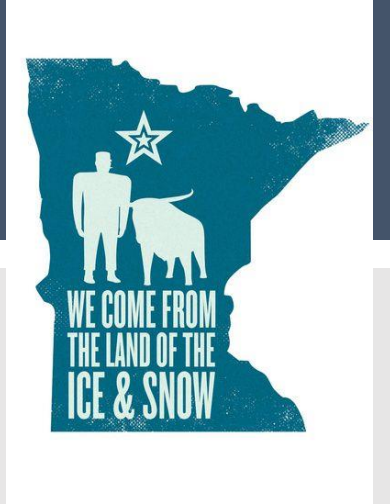
# MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant



- Pilot program (Funding for 1 cohort beginning July 2016)
- MN residents who:
  - Earning a MN high school diploma during the 2015-2016 academic year; or
  - Completing an Adult Basic Education program or passing a GED test as a Minnesota resident during the 2015-2016 academic year; or
- Enrolling in qualifying certificate, diploma, AS or AAS program at a MnSCU two-year college
  - Perkins Career and Technical Education Programs
  - Leading to high demand occupations
- Have an adjusted gross income of \$90,000 or less
- Grant amount = Tuition & Fees minus Pell & State Grants
  - Have tuition and fee charges not fully covered by Pell and State Grants
  - Application = FAFSA + student consent form

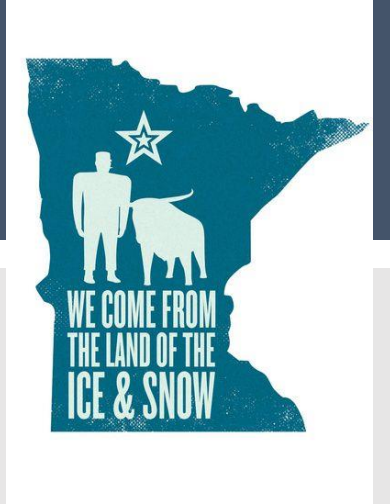


# MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant



- **Participate in free mentoring services**
  - Communicating with the mentoring service
  - Developing a personalized student success plan which includes
    - Concrete steps towards program completion and job placement
    - Identification of and contingency plans for potential obstacles to completion
  - Making connections to on-campus and personal development resources
  - Financial planning
- **Renewal criteria**
  - Submits a 2017-2018 FAFSA and any other required documents
  - Successfully completed at least 30 semester credits during 2016-2017
  - Participated in required free mentoring services during 2016-2017
  - Making satisfactory academic progress and maintaining a 2.5 GPA
  - Student's college certifies the student is on track to complete the program during the 2017-2018 academic year.

# MnSCU 2-Year Occupational Grant



## ■ Implementation

- No administrative funding
- Online applications
- Contracted mentoring services

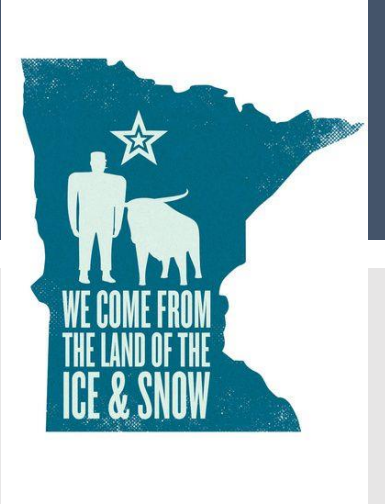
## ■ Outreach / Advertising

- 100% reliance on colleges and CTE/ABE programs

## ■ Planning for over-demand

- Anticipating wait-lists

# LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES



## 1. Who to serve?

- Non completers
- Underserved / hard to serve populations
- Recent high school graduates
- *Any measure of financial need?*

## 2. Which programs are eligible?

- High demand / high wage occupations

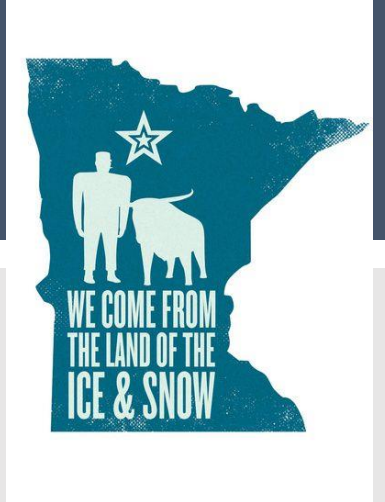
## 3. How will you measure the baseline for and predict changes in behavior?

- What is the behavior change intended?
- What behavior changes are not intended but likely?

## 4. What is driving adults to enroll/complete a degree?

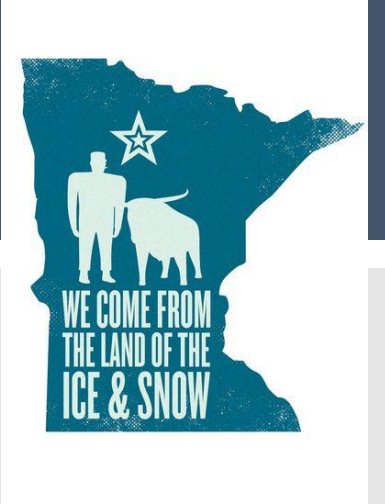
- Economic factors

# LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES



6. How does this program interact with existing federal, state and institutional financial aid & tuition policies
  - Last dollar program? Replacing other aid?
  - Is the funding adequate on a per-student basis? Population basis?
  - Will demand for this program drive up demand for other programs?
7. Understanding interactions with institutional or workforce programs
  - What supports / services are critical to success? (Recruitment / Support / Pathways)
8. Should we move beyond traditional education models?
  - Customized training
  - Prior learning assessment
  - Competency based education

# Questions?



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