



11/10/2021

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Data Democratization to Advance Equity 2030

Equity at the Edge of Chaos

MINNESOTA STATE

Land Acknowledgement

Minnesota State acknowledges the land and the tribal nations upon whose land this work is being accomplished. We acknowledge that we work on Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and Dakota land and are presenting today on Piscataway land.

Case Study: Data Democratization

**Minnesota State
Equity 2030**

**Complex
Adaptive Systems
& Higher Ed**



The Equity 2030 Goal

Eliminate the educational equity gaps
for first-generation students, low-
income students, indigenous students
and students of color at every
Minnesota State college and university.





Changing
External
Environment

Changing
External
Environment

Complex Adaptive Behaviour

Info Out

Info In

Positive Feedback
(Amplifying)

Non Linear

Emergence

Non Linear

Negative Feedback
(Dampening)

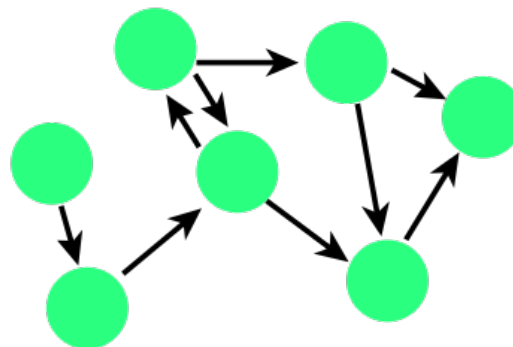
Info In

Info Out

Changing
External
Environment

Changing
External
Environment

Simple Self-Organized
Local Relationships



The Edge of Chaos: spaces of change and innovation



CAS Characteristics in Higher Ed

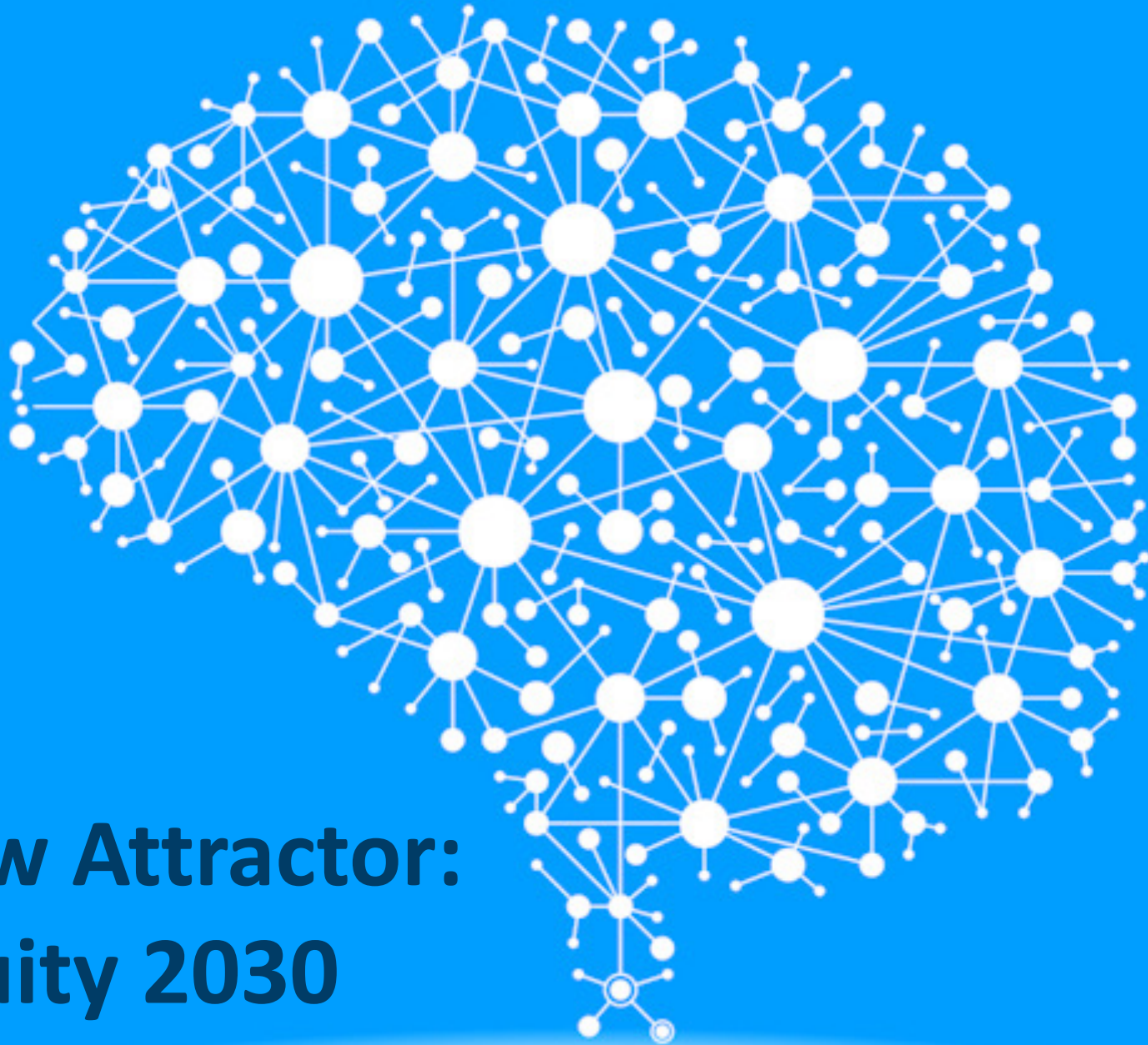
CAS characteristic	General definition	Higher Ed example
Networks	Internal & external interactions	Faculty in internal departments, external professional associations
Nonlinearity	Nonlinear cause and effect	Inability to scale boutique programs
Self-organization	More complex orgs create their own infrastructure	Shared governance models
Feedback loops	Positive or negative; maintains stasis	Changes in environment (COVID-19) or field (co-requisite dev ed)



CAS Characteristics in Higher Ed

CAS characteristic	General definition	Higher Ed example
Path dependency	Historical processes	“We’ve always done it this way.”
Co-evolution	Changes in one system that cause changes in another	Student food insecurity leading to campus food pantries
Emergence	Niche experiments that prompt system change	ED experimental sites
Attractor	A state to which CAS are drawn due to internal & external rules	Status quo Equity 2030





New Attractor: Equity 2030



Negative Feedback Loops: Legal & Regulatory Environment

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Niche Environment: Chancellor's Fellow

Emergence: Power BI Report



Power BI Tool: A different approach



Networks & Co-evolution



Early Results & Adoption



Challenges



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