

**Date/time:** November 21, 2024, 2:30-4:00pm  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams  
**Attendees:** Eric Billiet, Tikki Brown, Paul Cerkvenik, Joey Cienian, Brittany Clausell, Danny Clifford, Scott Croonquist, Joe Curiel, Jeremiah Ellis, Jessica Espinosa, Nancy Floyd, Stephanie Graff, Satasha Green-Stephen, Mary Hauff, Krystle Igbo-Ogbana, Zeke Jackson, Jennifer Kunze, Josiah Litant, Angela Mansfield, Jesse Mason, Katie McClelland, Anthony Miller, Nora Morris, Joe Munnich, Jess Niebuhr, Clare Oumou Verbeten, Maureen Ramirez, Sally Reynolds, Wendy Robinson, Megan Rozowski, Lauryn Schothorst, Darrin Strosahl, Jennifer Verbrugge, Jeremy Willey, Liz Williams, Tami Williams

**Notes:**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Josiah Litant welcome everyone and asked new members and guests to introduce themselves.
- b. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.
- c. Josiah provided two short updates:
  - The equity tool that has been built over this past year for MNP20's use will be shared with members tomorrow via email. This tool will be used in both planning for projects/initiatives as well as for assessing projects/initiatives. The goal is to ensure that we are actualizing our equity principles through our work and holding ourselves accountable. The tool is a living document, so feedback and suggestions are welcome as we use it. Jen Verbrugge asks if it will be on the website. Josiah says for now it will be sent to members via email and put on the virtual member workspace (Sharepoint site).
  - Josiah mentions that he has completed the first draft of the MNP20 annual report that will be submitted to the Governor's Office, legislature, state agencies, and others. It will be sent next to the Executive Committee (EC) for edits and to committee chairs for review of their sections. It will then be sent to the full partnership for any edits by mid-December. It will be submitted on or before January 15 and will be shared broadly and placed on our website as well.

**2. MNP20 Committee Updates**

**a. Credentials of Value, *Jess Niebuhr***

Jess provided an overview of Credentials of Value (CoV) work that has occurred since the larger committee was sunset this year and a smaller planning team

continued moving the effort forward. Jess started by recapping what the project is, that is a transparency effort around postsecondary credentials in Minnesota, providing accountability for public dollars and consumer information for students and families. The framework basically includes a range of criteria related to labor market demand, wages, knowledge and competencies, access, and stackability of education and training credentials in postsecondary. Jess talked about the work the planning team has been doing which right now primarily includes an information gathering process to get feedback on the CoV framework. This includes a forthcoming survey and presentations that are being conducted. Jess reviews feedback that has been received thus far. Jess says the group is working on several implementation projects right now that utilize the framework as a basis for their efforts. The first is OHE's promising credentials report that is underway (RFP was completed, a contractor was hired, and they will be developing an inventory of credentials being developed across the state). There is a new Americans training initiative that DEED requested funding for through MJSP funds, and it is experimenting with using public dollars to provide credential evaluations for new Americans that have international credentials as well as using credit for prior learning assessment on the areas where credentials evaluation falls short (e.g., because a transcript isn't available, etc.). Finally, Minnesota State has a microcredentials work team that is looking at opportunities to develop policies and practices around microcredentials on several fronts—the CoV framework is being utilized within this project. Jess mentions that ultimate decisions about if/how the CoV framework is instituted statewide is not a decision this group will make, but that our feedback will be shared with higher-level decision makers for further discussion after all feedback has been corrected.

**b. Data Use and Capacity, *Nancy Floyd and Joe Munnich***

Nancy explains that the Data Use and Capacity committee (DUC) was originally charged with developing the Learner Lifespan report, but it was recommended a few years back that DUC be a permanent subcommittee of MNP20. This group is focused on where our data comes from, what it represents, what MNP20 should be using it for, etc. This group is the incubator for evaluating ideas/proposals for what DUC should work on as well as things that should be referred back to the Executive Committee for further work. The DUC relaunched in July of this year with existing members and some new added members as well. The DUC continues to look at adding new members. In July the group started by picking up with the existing Learner Lifespan report. The group talked about how to begin to operationalize the recommendations from that report in our work and MNP20's work. The DUC also wants to be sure that we are paying attention to the environment in which we are gathering and using data and being mindful of that in our work and ensure that we are keeping our data work connected to MNP20's bigger picture. Joe adds that, in thinking about DUC's membership, we continue to think about who has not been represented in the group —

particularly from community-based groups—and look at how we can further expand that to ensure broad representation.

Josiah adds a note that MNP20 voting and designee members are welcome to join any of our subcommittees at any time and should contact him if they are interested. Non-members may also be considered and should talk to Josiah if interested in joining a committee.

c. **Dual Credit and Exam-Based Credit, *Eric Billiet and Jessica Espinosa***

Eric talks about the analysis of the return on investment for dual enrollment in the state of Minnesota that the group was conducting in partnership with Ecotone Analytics. Eric says as the committee reviewed the draft and then final work this fall it became clear that we were missing a lot of broader data points and that there are a lot of gaps in the context. Because of this, the final work is not publishable because it's not conclusive, but this initial analysis will be used internally for the Dual Credit and Exam-Based Credit (DCEC) committee to consider, and to identify how it could inform and/or be used in our future projects. Jessica talks about broader work that is being conducted by MNP20 related to dual credit. She says the College in High School Alliance (CHSA) offered a technical assistance opportunity that states could apply to this fall. The opportunity provides a small amount of funding and technical assistance for states to develop a statewide vision for dual enrollment. MNP20 applied on behalf of Minnesota, with support from the Executive Committee member organizations. This will help us collaboratively develop a clear vision for our state's dual enrollment. Our proposal was submitted and we have made the first cut and participated in an interview recently. We will know soon if we have been selected for this work. Besides vision, the work will be focused on equity in dual enrollment with particular focus on rural students and students of color. Jessica says that, because this is currently in process, the Executive Committee and DCEC leadership have decided to pause the work of the DCEC group while we see what happens. If we are selected for this opportunity, MNP20's future work in the dual credit space will be driven from the work that comes out of the project.

d. **Financial Aid and Literacy, *Wendy Robinson***

Wendy Robinson began by thanking Julie Selander, outgoing co-chair of the Financial Aid and Literacy (FAL) committee, for her years of service to this group. We will be announcing a new co-chair to join Wendy soon. Wendy says the FAL will also be expanding its membership soon. The FAL has developed a proposal for its work moving forward in the next year, and that has been approved by the Executive Committee. The new project, which Josiah mentions came out of the findings of priorities from last spring's financial summit, will be focused on FAFSA. Wendy says the project will be really actionable and is directly connected to the current situation nationally around the FAFSA. She adds that she expects

we will provide more updates on this work as the group plans it out, Josiah says likely at our January or March MNP20 meeting.

### **3. New/Changed Member Proposals, Overview**

Josiah states that there are several proposals on the table for new members or changes to existing members to further expand the representation of critical sectors on the partnership, and in alignment with membership requirements as outlined in our statute. He says the EC is working through a list of proposed changes, so these are the first of several we will see in the coming months. Per our bylaws, changes must be made by a voting member of MNP20, and Josiah says these nominations have all been made by the full Executive Committee. The changes are:

- a. Add the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families as a voting member.
- b. Change Generation Next's seat on the partnership to a seat for the Education Partnerships Coalition, the umbrella group that Generation Next is part of and that includes 8 additional cradle-to-career organizations across our state. This will provide a broader, statewide viewpoint to this seat at our table.
- c. Change SLEDS and ECLDS (who are both listed as designee voting members of OHE and also affiliate members) to non-voting members. SLEDS and ECLDS fall under the umbrella of MNP20 per statute, so they should not be able to have a vote on the partnership, but the presence of both of these data systems at our table is critical to our work and Josiah says we would like them formally included, just in a non-voting capacity. Josiah serves in the same role on the SLEDS and ECLDS governing and executive boards for that same reason.

The changes are supported by all of the affected parties. Josiah will be sending an electronic voting form to all MNP20 voting members (or designee members if they sit in full-time in place of their voting member) and voting will be conducted until just after Thanksgiving. Results will be shared electronically with members and minutes will be posted to the MNP20 website to document the vote.

### **4. Educator Workforce**

Josiah recapped what we discussed regarding the educator workforce at September's meeting, and asked the group for further discussion of if/how MNP20 should or could participate in this space. What contribution could we make that will support statewide educator workforce efforts across the P-20 continuum?

Through the group discussion, several key ideas were shared:

- Addressing unpaid student teaching and potentially supporting legislative changes to pay student teachers
- Ensuring that MNP20 is aware of all the efforts already happening in this space so that we are starting from an informed place
- Easing pathways for paraprofessionals to become teachers if they want to
- Making sure that teaching is a viable option financially for teachers and advocating for tactics to address this

- Identifying areas where MNP20 can help amplify the real needs in this space to the legislature and other decision makers
- Advocating for removal of barriers to licensure in collaboration with PELSB
- Identify ways for MNP20 to help figure out how best to support the communication of all of the opportunities and pathways to become a teacher in Minnesota, and strengthen the centralizing of this messaging/communications

Josiah says he heard three primary things in the conversation that the Executive Committee will follow up on: Level-setting (ensure that MNP20 is aware of what is already happening in this space), identify where there are shared priorities that MNP20 can advocate for legislatively, and identify where MNP20 can help with connecting and communicating across all of the different efforts that are happening across the state.

## 5. State Postsecondary Attainment Goal Expiration

Josiah presented on the state's postsecondary educational attainment goal (see PowerPoint slides). He presented an overview on the history of national postsecondary goals as well as Minnesota's own goal, which expires in 2026, and talks about where we have and have not made progress on achieving the goal.

Josiah talks about the question of what comes next—will our state legislature adopt a new or revised goal? What would the role of MNP20 be in that work? Josiah identifies a number of questions we might consider asking in developing a new goal, including what we need to think about differently from the last goal. He then presents Hawai'i's model for their new state attainment goal which is a "P-20 goal," meaning that it has benchmarks in early childhood, K-12, higher ed, and workforce development, not just postsecondary attainment as the goal. He also suggests that postsecondary attainment is in fact not the ultimate goal, but everything that the data shows postsecondary attainment *leads to* is our ultimate goal, and that we need to pay attention to all of the milestones along the way in one's educational journey where we lose students—this is what a "P-20" set of goals is about. Josiah tells members they can search the Hawai'i plan online if they want to see it (post meeting note: the link to see the Hawai'i work is <https://hawaiigraduatesforhawaiisfuture.org/> and their full plan can be found there). Finally Josiah mentions that we have not closed our racial and ethnic equity gaps in attainment almost at all—is this something we want to be more intentional and forward about in a new goal?

Josiah asks the group what their thoughts are on the possible renewal of a goal, a "P-20 attainment goal," and what opportunities and challenges they see.

- Nora Morris mentions that ECLDS and SLEDS already report so many of these data points but they are not specifically tied into our attainment goal, and this could be a nice opportunity to do that and to help us see that everyone has a part to play in reaching postsecondary attainment ultimately.
- Senator Oumou Verbeten says she sees the value in having a goal, and commends OHE for their work disaggregating our current goal. She says that, in developing a

- new goal, we also need to think about what would be politically feasible, especially as we think about potentially calling out our racial disparities in education more intentionally. Senator Oumou Verbeten also identifies supporting incarcerated students more purposefully as part of this work, and says that Direct Admissions is a great newer program that also helps with this work. She says she loves the idea of breaking down attainment into benchmarks across the learner lifespan.
- Josiah mentions that any conversation the P-20 is part of must be attuned to the political climate, and that part of P-20's work is lifting up students who are not being served or have not been historically served, and groups like just-impacted students or students with developmental, learning, and physical disabilities is another example that Mary Hauff raised in the chat. Serving each and every learner is P-20's work. Serving rural students is another example that Darrin raised earlier in the meeting as well.
  - Lauryn Schothorst talks about the need to further define what MNP20 means by "improving outcomes" for all Minnesotans and how we are measuring those outcomes. She talks about the purpose of an attainment goal being to improve economic outcomes, for example, for Minnesotans. Having greater clarity on the purpose of the attainment goal is critical.
  - Josiah says that this will also be part of our MNP20 strategic plan—indeed, this is the opportunity to define what we mean by "improved outcomes" and provide specific strategies and metrics for how we will get there.
  - Josiah says the next steps in this conversation certainly are not up to MNP20, but he anticipates conversations will happen between leadership at OHE and legislators in this new legislative session. Commissioner Olson is highly supportive of the idea of the partnership being integral to the work of any new attainment goal, and is committed to our participation and involvement as that work unfolds in 2025.

#### **6. Announcements, updates, invitations, questions**

- Jennifer Kunze lets people know that the College Readiness Consortium at the U of M is hosting a webinar on 12/10/24 from 10:00am-11:30am to increase FAFSA completion rates, and its intended for school counselors or students studying counseling. Registration can be found at [https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6C5K4iuCTceMEy92-Q-Txg#](https://umn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6C5K4iuCTceMEy92-Q-Txg#).

*Meeting adjournment at 3:59pm.*