Addressing the Challenges of Maintaining Rural Access

Todd Harmening, System Director for Academic Programs & Collaboration
Minnesota State System Office
Minnesota State full-year equivalent enrollment has declined and is projected to level off for near-term
Despite recent increases, Minnesota’s adjusted investment in Minnesota State is $97 million less than 2002.
**Regional Planning Recommendations**

- **Recommendations 1**
  Regional academic planning should be grounded in a collective scan of current trends and long-term opportunities impacting respective regions.

- **Recommendations 2**
  System colleges and universities within a region should collectively identify selected strategic and collaborative initiatives to advance regional and system opportunities.

- **Recommendations 3**
  The system should advance policies, strategies and solutions in support of more coordinated and collaborative academic programs and initiatives.

**Scanning**
- Regional scans as unit of analysis
- Unique regional dynamics
- Environment for creative problem solving

**Planning**
- Common construct
- Opportunities within/beyond region
- Inter-institutional engagement

**Expanding**
- Elevate/connect common regional priorities
- Infrastructure for collaboration
- Align and advance system and regional priorities
Reimagining Minnesota State Outcomes

Create the structures, policies, procedures, and funding models that will:

• Recognize and accelerate the innovative approaches already occurring on our campuses

• Identify and bring promising practices to scale throughout the system

• Identify and experiment with possible innovations that will address challenges and opportunities beyond the capabilities and resources of a single campus

• Make innovation integral to the operational structures of the board, system office, and campuses
Opportunities that go beyond Minnesota State

- Increase our data and evaluation capacity, whether for market opportunities or effective practices around student success and institutional efficiencies
- Drive change through the needs and opportunities emerging from local and regional dynamics in concert with system and state priorities
- Rethink the historical functions of state or system coordination and the value of system planning, funding, and policies in support of collaboration, innovation and scaling