

STATE GRANT BACKGROUND 2017

* MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGE COUNCIL

THE STORY AT MINNESOTA COLLEGES

82,416 students — Minnesotans who receive the State Grant

93% — share of State Grant recipients with families who earn less than \$80,000

\$3,405 — average State Grant award at four-year institutions



RUBA KENYI

College: Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Hometown: Rochester

Major: Psychology, Class of 2018

Extra-curriculars: Member of Black Student and Allies, member of Multicultural Committee, First Generation Initiative study assistant, works as a foodserver in cafeteria

"It is hard to imagine my life without the Minnesota State Grant. I am really grateful to receive it and it makes school affordable. I don't know if I would be getting a college education if I did not have the State Grant."

STATE GRANT BENEFITS

With the State Grant program, the state of Minnesota directly awards students money to help pay for college. The program:

- targets low- and middle-income students.
- encourages Minnesotans to stay here for college.
- helps students graduate on time.

WIDESPREAD HELP

The State Grant benefits almost 83,000 students. They:

- attend public and private colleges.
- go full-time and part-time.
- earn certificates, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees.



2017 Agenda:

Increase college opportunity with State Grant investment

REQUEST

1. **Put students first by making new investments in the Minnesota State Grant program the top higher education priority.** With new funding, we can improve grants and help more students.
2. Support **SF 1303 and HF 1430** — bills that make the State Grant program’s assumptions about what students and their families pay more realistic by:
 - A. **Reducing the “student share.”**
The formula expects students to pay as much as \$10,000 per year for an associate degree and \$14,500 for a bachelor’s degree. Having to earn or borrow this much money puts an unreasonable burden on students. The result is too much debt.
 - B. **Reducing the “family share.”**
The current formula also sets overly high expectations on what families can pay. The result is often more borrowing. Too many families with need are not eligible.

BENEFITS

With these changes policymakers would:

- increase awards for students;
- make more students and families eligible, broadening the reach into middle-income families; and
- hold down student debt.

Improve State Grant awards and make more students eligible: It’s time to re-invest in college students and our future.

*For more on the Council’s agenda for investment in the State Grant program visit:
www.mnprivatecolleges.org/policy/legislative-session.*

