

## **Workforce Development**

### **Minnesota Must Address its Looming Critical Workforce Shortage**

#### **Background:**

A shrinking number of people entering the workforce and a lack of diversity in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) is negatively affecting these fields. The state is facing a significant shortfall of qualified individuals in the professions supported by these skills and the problem is projected to grow over the next several years. The Minnesota legislature needs to step up to address this critical shortage of STEM graduates and look to finding ways to draw a more diverse group of individuals into these professions. Minnesota must also look to investing in the infrastructure and social amenities that will make the state competitive with other parts of the country to draw our future workforce to Minnesota.

- Provide grants to organizations that promote STEM careers
- Invest in programs that create opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to pursue STEM careers.
- Make Minnesota a “destination” for the next generation of workers by creating an environment that attracts them to the state. We are in a competition with other states to draw workers and investments in infrastructure such as light rail and urban centered amenities are crucial in bringing more individuals to our state

Minnesota’s investments in its workforce will pay off handsomely over the years. Workforce development is critical for keeping Minnesota competitive with the rest of the country. Minnesota’s businesses rely on a strong workforce and the State must invest in our future workforce.

#### **ACEC/MN Position**

ACEC/MN supports investments in STEM educational programs and other related programs that will encourage a more diverse workforce within these fields. The state should increase investments in ABET accredited programs, provide grants for student’s education and fund additional programs through DEED that encourage careers in engineering. We also support investments in social amenities that will make Minnesota a destination for the next generation of workers.

#### **Action Requested:**

Contact your legislators and explain our concerns regarding the growing shortage of personnel and the need for the legislature to address the shortage through programs that will draw a diverse workforce to our profession.

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