03/15/2023

Dear Legislators,

On Behalf of Concordia Saint Paul Student Senate, we would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this community. We want to start by saying how important the Minnesota state grant program is so important to us and affects over 700 students on our campus. Most if not all the students on this grant will not be able to attend or even consider attending this University without the help of the state grant program.

The Minnesota State Grant not only allows students to help attend college financially but provides a sense of support that Motivates us to push further and accomplish our goals and dreams. The support that the grant has provided so far which we are very much thankful for, it’s created opportunities and a sense of responsibility for students to hold on to and be successful in whatever career they may take. This makes it possible for parents or one-parent families to try to support their children. Especially First-generation students who are the first in their families to graduate because it gives them something to hold and be proud of when they do get their degree at the end of the day.

The State Grant bill will lower the share of college costs the State Grant formula expects students to cover from 50 to 42 percent. If you decide to prioritize college affordability the Average State Grant awards would go up by $1,100 and larger grant awards would help about 61,000 students. This creates an opportunity for low, and middle-income families across Minnesota. This program will show support for equal opportunity, which we strive to do every day to make sure everyone's story and hard work is being heard.

Students with this will have more time to focus on their professional development and class work rather than trying to work for their basic needs. We appreciate your support and look forward to talking with you further about expanding state grants for our students to develop leaders like you and others around you.

Best regards,

Joseph González, Concordia University, St. Paul, Vice President of Student Relations & Affairs
Davaris Cheeks, Student Body President
Monique Turner Vice President of Finance & Clubs
Mackenzie Leibiger, Vice President of Student Representatives