



January 2024

Academic and Student Affairs

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# Legislative Investments in Academic and Student Affairs

Board of Trustees

MINNESOTA STATE

# Student Support

- The Legislature provided \$6.316 million for student support
  - \$3.158 million each year of the biennium and ongoing in the base
  - Funding is intended to help campuses address basic needs insecurity, mental health and other high-need student support services through both systemwide activities and activity specific to campus needs
  - Funding will be utilized to sustain and expand basic needs and mental health resources currently available for all students at all colleges and universities, including the basic needs resource hub partnership with United Way 211 and the mental health training platform launched in August 2023
  - Additional basic needs and mental health resources previously recommended by the Basic Needs Committee and identified in previous budget requests are being pursued in collaboration with campus stakeholders
  - In addition to enterprise solutions that will enhance collective capacity in this area, funding will also support campus specific initiatives that will enhance student support

# Supporting Basic Needs, Mental Health & Other High Need Student Supports

- \$2 million dollars directly allocated to improve/increase campus-based supports related to students' basic needs security, good mental health, and other high need student support services/resources
  - Each college and university submitted a funds utilization description which detailed how the funds would be used and outlined impact evaluation measures determined by each college and university
  - Examples include:
    - Increased clinical mental health and clinical health services on-campus and virtually (including new clinical positions)
    - Emergency grants for students' basic needs
    - Increased support for food pantries: supplies, facilities, and access
    - Increased support for transportation, housing & technology insecurity
    - Increased support for students who are parenting
    - Additional opportunities for peer-to-peer support; wellness, resilience, health-promotion, and evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention programming and trainings



# Student Basic Needs Resource Hub

- Partnership with Greater Twin Cities United Way
  - Students Text MNHELP to 898211 or call 211 toll free, confidential, 24/7 support
  - Over 1200 students have utilized in the resource hub in the first year
  - Top three basic needs areas students seek support:
    - Food Insecurity
    - Housing Insecurity
    - Mental Health
  - First of its kind partnership in the United States



# Statewide Support

- Supplemental Clinical Mental Health Support
  - Accessible for all students at all 33 colleges and universities
  - Robust process underway that includes students, faculty, and staff to identify technology that provides the support functionality needed.
  - Goal of implementation by fall 2024.
- Equitable Distribution of Student Emergency Grant Funding
  - Engaged in contract negotiations with an industry leading technology to support an app-based, bias free, electronic application for students with robust data analytics at campus and system level .
  - Campus personnel will make grant application decisions, and can use data to provide additional supportive measures for students
  - Goal of implementation in spring 2024.
- Assessment and Professional Development Opportunities
  - Engaged in a partnership with the Hope Center at Temple University to assess the prevalence of basic needs insecurity and the impact of basic needs and mental health initiatives.
  - Goal of implementation in spring 2024.

# Z-Degree Textbook Program

- “Z-Degree” is a degree program in which students can complete the credential with zero textbook costs.
- The Legislature provided \$1 million in one-time additional funds each year of the biennium for a total of \$2 million to reduce students’ out-of-pocket costs by expanding free offerings in course materials and resources, including through open educational resources, open textbooks, and implementation of Z-Degrees. Additionally, the legislature re-affirmed \$50,000 each year in base funding.
- Funds will support systemwide membership in the Open Education Network/Open Textbook Library, a repository for OER materials, Pressbooks publishing platform, faculty and staff development, library resources, zero-textbook cost (“Z”) degrees and the development of course resources for a zero-textbook cost transfer pathway.

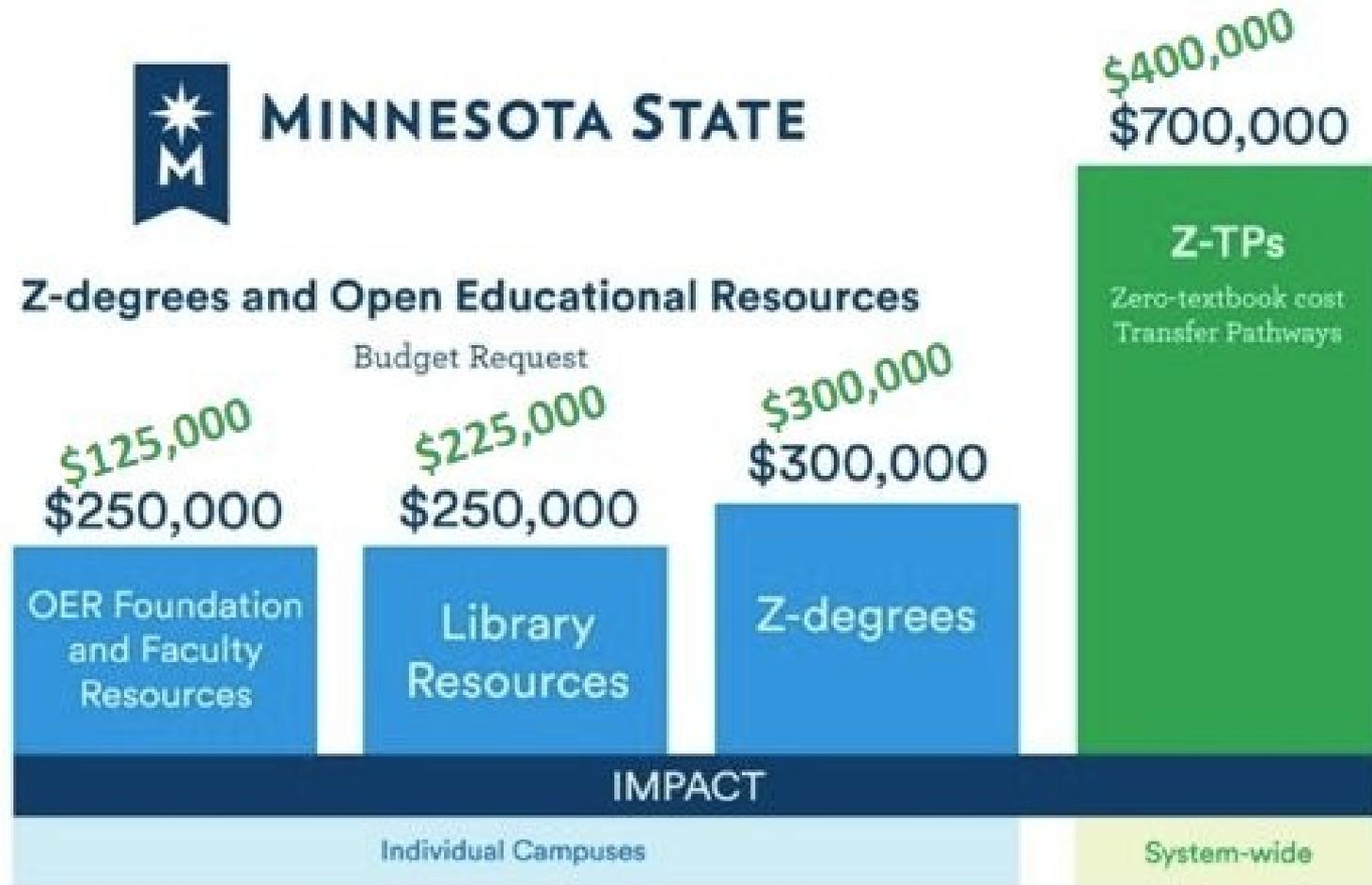
# Funds Requested and Received



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## Z-degrees and Open Educational Resources

Budget Request



# Z-Degree Implementation & Savings

## COMPLETED - SEARCH FOR NO COST COURSES DURING REGISTRATION



## IN-PROCESS



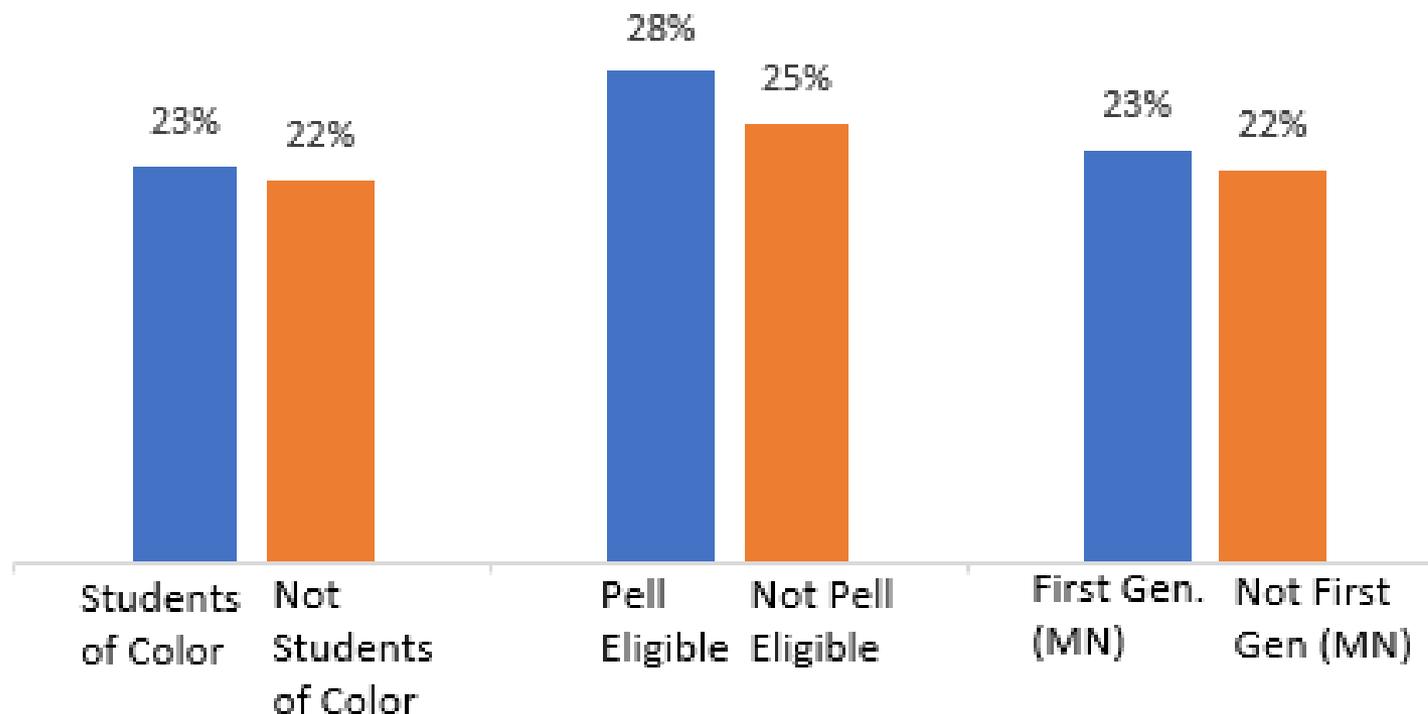
# \$8,551,400 Cost Savings

AY21, AY22, AY23, and summer/fall semester of AY24

Return on investment **>\$7 per student for each \$1 invested** in the creation and implementation of Z-degrees.

# Equity & Opportunity Gap

Percent of Students who Took at Least One  
Z-Degree Course  
FY21-FY23



# OER/ Z-Degree Course Success

**+ 2.8% PASS RATE for OER sections\***

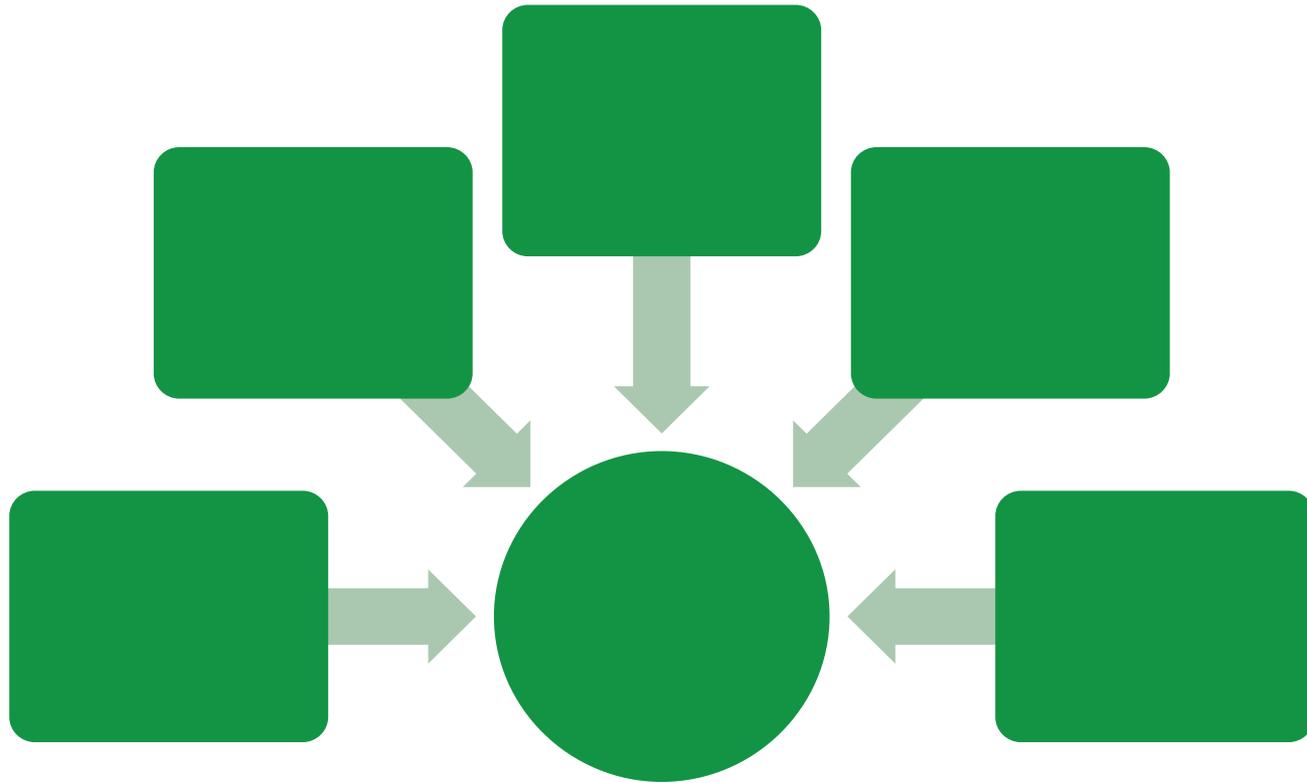


- Difference in pass rates between OER sections and all sections of the same course varies significantly
- 41 of 67 OER sections had a higher pass rate than all sections of the same courses

\*Simple average of the difference for all OER sections to all sections

Report prepared by Jennifer Pearson Hennen, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Century College, May 8, 2023

# Bringing Z-Degree, Transfer Pathways, Open Education, and Equitable Teaching Together



# **Model for Z-TP “More Than” Affordable Materials**

**Project Management**

**Instructional Design, Library and Technical Support**

**Equity Coaching**

**Publishing & Editing Resources**

**Peer Reviews and Evaluation**



**Thank you**





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