Challenges to our promise

Even though we remain steadfastly committed to our compact with Minnesota, we know too well that our ability to fulfill this promise is at risk – threatened by challenges that could weaken educational quality and our ability to deliver on our commitments. It is imperative that we address challenges that include:

- Funding shifts that threaten quality, access, and affordability;
- Increasing competition that affects enrollments in our degree programs, customized training and continuing education;
- Population shifts in which a larger share of Minnesotans are moving to a handful of metropolitan areas; and
- Threats to our authority to govern.

At the same time, emerging trends create opportunities for us to become stronger and serve students in new ways:

- Dramatic growth in the diversity of the students we serve;
- Growth in the number of students enrolled in multiple colleges and universities within our system;
- Changes in technology that create new opportunities for how students can learn, how we can teach and support their learning, and how we can work together;
- The changing nature of work and what it means to be well prepared for jobs and careers; and
- The growing need for us to demonstrate the capabilities of our graduates.

FIGURE 1.
DEEP CUTS IN STATE SUPPORT HAVE LED TO INCREASED RELIANCE ON TUITION AND RISING STUDENT DEBT, WHICH THREATEN ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

SOURCE: MnSCU Office of Institutional Research