

## Immigrant Students and Higher Education Meeting MN's Workforce Needs

### Minnesota risks having too few college graduates to fill the coming demand for educated workers.

- Between 2003 and 2013, the number of high school graduates in MN is projected to decrease by 10.3%.
- Between 2007 and 2017, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded in MN each year will decline by 12% -- that adds up to 3,000 fewer graduates per year.
- Over roughly the same period, the number of college graduates retiring from the MN workforce will grow from 9,000 to 25,000 each year.
- On top of the need created by retirements, new job growth (especially in professional and high tech industries) will demand additional college graduates.

While the number of high school graduates is projected to decline, the number of students of color graduating from high school is increasing. Hispanic graduates alone are projected to increase by 173 percent between 2003 and 2013.

Much of this growth in the population of students of color comes from students who are foreign-born or are children of foreign-born parents.

### Minnesota needs more students to complete some form of higher education, and immigrant students are key.

Sources: Minnesota Private College Council, *Demographic Challenges and Opportunities: Higher Education & Minnesota's Future*, April 2006. Minnesota Private College Council, *Projections of High School Graduates: Implications for Baccalaureate Degree Production and Workforce Growth*, April 2004.

