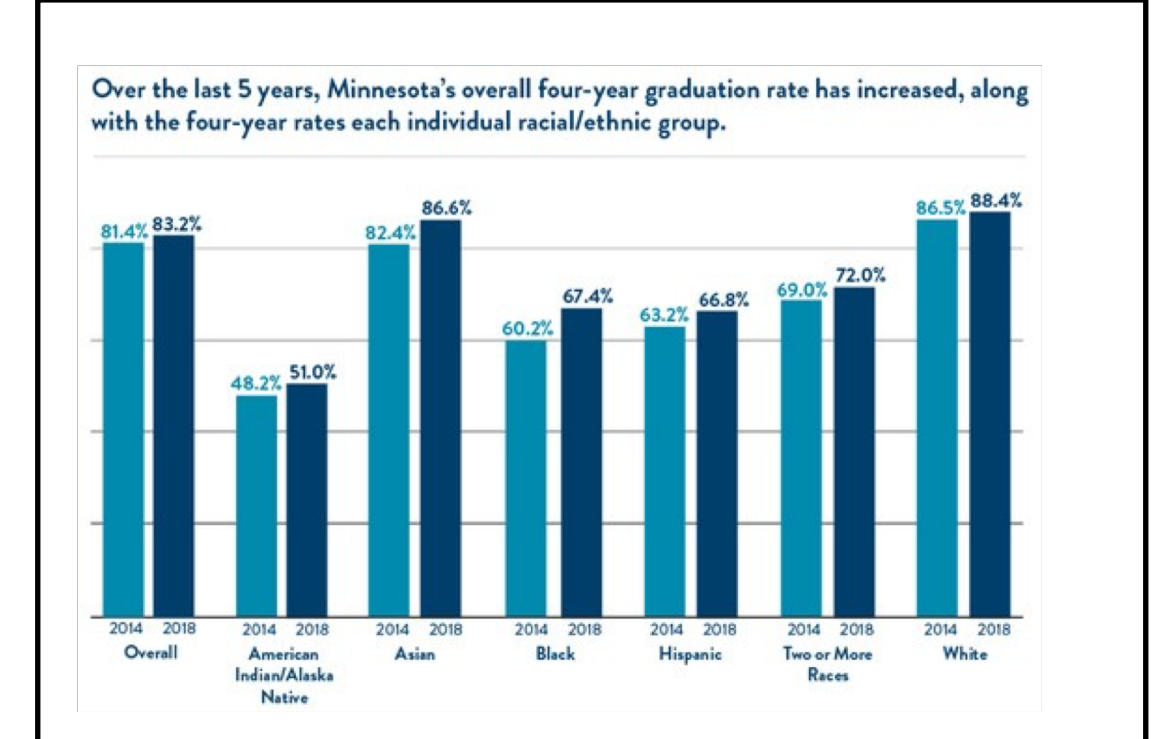


YOUNG LEADER VISION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT AND FINDINGS

VISION

- My vision for the future of the region is for more collaboration between companies and regional planners when creating and adopting new policies and technology and providing more representation of minority groups in the developmental and planning processes.
- Before this project, I viewed the development of new technology, and the development of new regional policies as completely separate bodies that unintentionally crossed paths when convenient. I knew and accepted the idea that technology had a trickle down effect and that it was only introduced to the general public once completely developed and ready for use. However, through my conversations with community leaders, tech CEOs, and my team members, I now understand that each individual has their own frame of reference in which they see the world and everyone's thought processes are shaped by their experiences. Therefore the policies and technologies built are always made for a certain demographic even when unintended.
- As I continued with this project I learned the necessity of accounting for unintended consequences during the developmental process of creating policies and technology. Even though it may slow down the initial process, it will pay dividends later when dealing with the nuances. However, in order to acknowledge these unintended consequences, a diverse body of people need to be actively engaged in the development and planning processes which requires a fundamental change in the requirements to hold these positions as well as in the education system in order to allow more representation in these jobs.



51%
 Graduation rate for Native American/Alaskan Native

ACTION

SYSTEMS

In order to develop technology and policies that best represent the people's needs and does not inherently disadvantage a certain population, we need to insure their populations are actively engaged in the planning and developmental process. A short term solution is reducing the level of education needed to become a regional planner. A long term initiative should be to fundamentally change the educational systems to create more pipelines for underrepresented populations to enter into higher education. A possible solution for the communication gap between businesses and regional planners is mandatory job fairs with local companies for regional planners to become aware of the technology they are building and how it could be incorporated into the plan. Another potential solution to address the subconscious biases within regional planning is a required "Day in the Life of a resident" where planners are required to spend a day living the life of the demographic they are planning for.

COMMUNITY

The GradMinnesota Initiative is currently making great strides to increase the graduation rate to 90% by 2020. I will continue supporting legislation on increasing more teachers of color and allocating more funding towards programs for "English Language learning students, special education, integration aid, early childhood education, and all-day Kindergarten".

I will work with my community to expand this initiative and promoting underrepresented groups in technology development to explore the field.

BUSINESS

In order to facilitate the collaboration between local companies and regional planners, our communities must incentivize this communication through entertaining events in order to also engage a more diverse population.

MediBio, a company located in Shakopee is developing technology to detect symptoms of mental illnesses through biometrics such as heart rate and sleeping patterns in order for corporations to better track the wellness of their company. In the future technology like this can be used to collect data about the residents in the community in order to objectively determine how to most effectively allocate resources.

INSIGHTS

- I was surprised to learn how technical the comprehensive planning processes was and the amount of time it takes to pass. Through conversations with my city mayor and director of community development, I learned the need for more aspirational elements in the planning process in order to maximize community engagement.
- The biggest lesson I learned from the project process was the power of the nuance and the power of the informed outsider to introduce a new way of thinking.
- How has this project/approach changed your views on regional planning?**
 Regional planning needs to encompass more than just planning for the roads and sewage system, but is unique to each community's needs and needs to engage members from the communities as well as local businesses in order to be most effective. For example, in Eagan we are mostly developed, so we need to focus on redevelopment and accommodating for our growing older population.



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