Affiliate vs. Member

While membership in Minnesota Campus Compact is limited to presidents and chancellors of accredited higher education institutions in Minnesota, leaders at other organizations or associations that share a commitment to the democratic purposes of higher education are welcome to become affiliates of Minnesota Campus Compact. Affiliate status is a new opportunity first being offered in 2016-17.

To become an affiliate, the Executive Director, CEO, or Principal of an organization submits a letter indicating a desire to join Minnesota Campus Compact (MNCC) as an affiliate and expressing the organization’s support for our mission. Subject to review of the board, our staff will then prepare a dues invoice for the organization and request contact information for key people to receive information, publications, and any other communications directly from MNCC.

### Affiliate Benefits

**Connections with both public and private higher education leaders around a shared sense of civic purpose.** Member campuses build partnerships and educate students in ways that reflect their distinctive missions and contexts, yet most of our member presidents and chancellors have signed the national Campus Compact 30th anniversary action statement committing to:

- Empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world;
- Prepare our students for lives of engagement, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good;
- Embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally educationally and politically; and
- Harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practices—to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.

**Visibility for your organization’s civic and community engagement commitments.** In addition to promoting many types of engagement through our newsletter, events, awards, blog, Twitter feed, digital resources, and publications, we offer opportunities to connect directly with presidents, faculty, staff, student, and community leaders from across the state through major events, networking and professional development opportunities, sponsorships, and more.

**Engagement strategies that support the success of Minnesota’s increasingly diverse students.** MNCC, our members, and researchers have found that community engagement is a high-impact educational practice for students from all backgrounds, contributing both to academic achievement and retention. Our programs offer strong models, insights, and diverse consultants to inform related work.
Support for everyone from newcomers to highly experienced professionals. MNCC provides introductory information on engagement principles and effective practices, as well as opportunities for networking, reflection, and continued growth for those with years in the field. Evaluations consistently show participants gain new connections, knowledge, skills, resources, and ideas for action.

Access to external resources that build capacity for campus-community partnerships. Through the College Health Corps, for example, full-time AmeriCorps VISTAs support campus-community partnerships that promote health care access and health education among low-income Minnesotans. These VISTAs can be hosted at member institution, affiliates, or their community partners.

Consideration for board membership. Up to 25% of Minnesota Campus Compact’s board of directors may be leaders other than member campus presidents or chancellors. Interested individuals at affiliate organizations may contact the staff to request the governance committee and board consider their candidacy when a position is open.

Select Opportunities for MNCC Members and Affiliates – 2016-17

College Health Corps VISTA Program – full-time AmeriCorps VISTAs support campus-community partnerships that serve low-income Minnesotans, including addressing food insecurity, health care access, and other supports for low-income college students and their families – please contact us if interested in applying to host a VISTA for 2017-18; applications will be due in fall 2016; positions for 2016-17 are already filled

Communities of Practice – a collaborative learning and leadership initiative with five groups focused on specific topics related to assessing engagement and partnerships; supporting the engagement and success of low-income students; developing dialogue and deliberation skills; and overcoming institutional silos to deepen engagement – apply to participate by September 26, 2016

Civic Agency Initiative – online curriculum, workshops, and videos, toolkits, and other resources to build students’ civic agency and leadership capacity through self-knowledge, skills for working collaboratively, and strategies for making change – curriculum to be released this fall with introductory webinars to follow; workshops will be held upon request; content contributions are welcome

Statewide Summit and Awards Ceremony – an annual opportunity to honor student leaders, community partners, and faculty or staff civic engagement stewards from across the state, and for all participants to share their good work and discuss key issues – April 5, 2017, at the University of St. Thomas

Vision & Voice: Inspiring Civic Agency and Engagement for Equity – a day-long conference with sessions for students, staff, faculty, and community members on leveraging Minnesota’s strong tradition of civic and community engagement to advance racial equity – October 14, 2016 at Metropolitan State University; special rates for teams and registration/travel scholarships are available

Information sharing – monthly email newsletter and website with resources highly valued by members, including opportunities for grants, presenting, and publishing – ongoing throughout 2016-17

Customized assistance – we encourage members and affiliates to contact us if we might be helpful in presenting workshops, facilitating strategic discussions, serving on committees, identifying useful models or resources, answering questions or listening to your ideas – available any time upon request

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Julie Plaut, Executive Director of Minnesota Campus Compact, at julie@mncampuscompact.org or 612-436-2081, or Sinda Nichols, Associate Director, at sinda@mncampuscompact.org or 612-436-2080.