



News Release

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College Preparation Gaining Attention, Commissioner Seagren Tells Century

Minnesota State Education Commissioner Alice Seagren told a Century College audience on Jan. 21 that the learning gap between high school and college is drawing more attention from state officials.

“It is so important that K-12 is partnering with colleges more and more,” said Seagren. “We need to improve college readiness. We need to improve the transition from high school to college.”

Seagren said more attention is being directed to the question of what students need in high school so that they can be successful in college. Minnesota has set its high graduation standards high to foster that success. Data is being collected and analyzed to see where improvements can be made.

Science and engineering are being emphasized in high school because the country needs more scientists and engineers, she said. Interesting projects such as “Get STEM” that match school needs with industry expertise through the Minnesota Technology Association are going forward.

“There are two fundamentals that make for successful schools - really effective teachers and really effective principals,” said Seagren. She said more state and federal dollars are being directed toward improving teacher preparation.

She said Minnesota has a good chance of garnering federal “Race to the Top” dollars because of its progress in linking student achievement to teacher compensation.



Photo: Sen. Sandy Rummel of White Bear Lake and Commissioner Alice Seagren at Century