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# ROOTS

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*Students United Strategic Plan*



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# Introduction

The 2021-2026 Students United Strategic Plan was devised through a series of group and individual meetings with the students, alumni, Board of Directors, and staff members of the organization. While specific elements in our strategic plan may change to adapt to current issues in higher education, our guiding philosophies are cemented in student voice, student leadership and student development. Our strategic advocacy policy platforms for higher education are affordability, accessibility, and addressing JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) in higher education.

We recognize the critical contexts in which students live and learn. As we continue our work, two key themes will transcend all policy and program areas: (a) the COVID-19 pandemic impact and response, and (b) the requisite introspective and collective work that Black Lives Matter is calling upon citizens and institutions to do to create social transformation.







# our mission

Led by Minnesota State University students, we are the inclusive voice for all future, current, and former students. We actively work to represent and support Minnesota State University students and advocate at a local, system, state, and federal level for higher education policies that make a positive impact for our students and communities.

# our vision

Our vision is to create the model of inclusive higher education policies and leadership. Our goal is to ensure higher education is rooted in student voices and student needs. Student leaders at all decision-making tables strengthen student advocacy, which creates a more robust higher education system and community.

# our values

- Student Voice
- Thought Leaders
- United Leadership
- Diversity
- Equity and Inclusion
- Next Level Thinking
- Tangible Advocacy
- Student Leadership





## HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY

The federal government, state government, and the Minnesota State system should invest in Minnesota State universities by funding the majority of the cost of higher education, increasing financial access for all, and reducing the burden of student debt.

## HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS

We advocate for a holistic approach to students' higher education experience, which includes the right to have all their basic needs met and access to fully funded and resourced student support services.

## JEDI

(Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) We advocate for a transformative higher education experience that eliminates the opportunity gap, closes disparities in equity and inclusion, and takes meaningful responsibility for repairing legacies of injustice and oppression.

## GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES

1. Student Voice (consultation)
2. Student Leadership (advocacy)
3. Student Development (career readiness and holistic development)

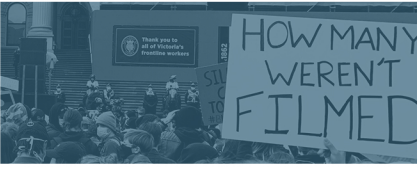
## THEMES

1. Black Lives Matter
2. COVID Pandemic Impact and Response



# SHARED LEARNING ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION

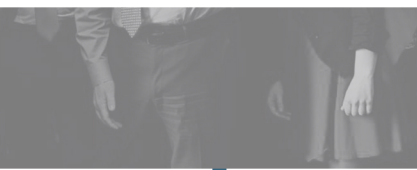
Creating greater continuity across the organization between students, alumni, and staff has been an ongoing challenge from year to year. Students United is building a community of practice where shared learning and growth takes place within and across various stakeholder groups. Annual conferences will provide ongoing professional learning and community engagement opportunities. The staff, board, alumni and student leaders across the organization will focus on these five areas of learning throughout the year. The student leadership program will also provide shared learning across the organization. Below are our areas of focus for shared learning opportunities.



## ANTI-RACISM



## NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP



## JEDI

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



## FINANCIAL LITERACY



## PRINCIPLES OF ADVOCACY







## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Thank You to the 2020- 2021 Board Members:

Jonathan McNicholes  
Emma Zellmer  
Victor Ayemobuwa  
Hamisha Alkamooneh  
Andrew Trenne  
Nico Arias  
Gabe Spinks  
Surkhel Yousafzai  
Clara Kuerschner  
Esther Oluborode

### Thank You to the 2020- 2021 Staff Members:

Devin Smith  
Connor Newby  
Christina DeVries  
Kalista Mangahas  
Abeer Syedah  
Thomas Anderson  
Lexi Byler  
Carlee Diggins

### Thank you to the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee:

Vanessa Steele, Facilitator  
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Kari McMartin  
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Kendra Draeger  
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Reauna Stiff  
Joe Wolf  
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Jessa Mueller  
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Abhishek Adile  
Kai Shelley  
Moshood Agboola  
Sandra Shimba  
Robert Beal  
Clara Kuerschner  
Courtney Colton  
Aly Hagglund







.....O the future is better because of us

*Getting back to our **roots**  
and growing our  
**branches!***



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