



Power of YOU

Summary Report

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Contact:

Elizabeth Yeh

Director of Institutional Research

Office of Strategy, Planning and Accountability

Minneapolis Community & Technical College

1501 Hennepin Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55403

612-659-6306

elizabeth.yeh@minneapolis.edu



The Power of YOU program was created to address the real and perceived financial barriers to college for students in Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools, especially students of color and low-income students.

Power of YOU Enrollment and Demographic Summary

According to Wilder Research:

- Enrollment of new Minneapolis and Saint Paul high school graduates “more than doubled” at the three higher education institutions offering the Power of YOU program, from 594 in 2004/2005 to more than 1,300 in 2006/2007.
- Over the two-year period 2006/2007, enrollment of students of color increased by nearly 500 students, a 150% increase at Power of YOU program schools.
- Over this same period, enrollment of low-income students increased 115%, nearly 500 students.
- The Power of YOU program had 72% low-income students and 64% students of color in 2006/2007.
- The Power of YOU program brought in students who were somewhat less prepared for college-level coursework. 74% of Power of You students in the 2006/2007 cohorts took developmental courses, compared to 66% of the 2004/2005 comparison group.

Power of YOU Outcomes: Retention

- For first fall to first spring retention, POY students had higher retention rates than comparison group of recent high school graduates created by Wilder Research, the average retention of all MnSCU colleges, and the Lumina Foundation’s Achieve the Dream 2002 Cohort (see Table 1 in Appendix).
- Similarly, for first fall to second fall POY students had higher retention rates than any of the three comparison cohorts (see Table 2 in Appendix).

Power of YOU Outcomes: Academic Performance

The first cohort of the Power of YOU program (those students who started the program in fall 2006) have now completed two years. Here is a summary of the outcomes after two years (i.e., at second spring term) the 2006 POY Cohort and a comparison group of recent high school graduates who enrolled at a POY institution in Fall 2004 or Fall 2005:

- 50% of the cohort was still enrolled at second spring. (This does not count those who had graduated or transferred and were no longer enrolled.)



- POY students were retained at a higher rate (50%) than the comparison group (46%).
- They had earned an average of 83% of the cumulative credits they had attempted.
 - POY students earned a smaller percentage of their cumulative credits attempted (83%) than the comparison group (95%).
- They had earned an average of 34.4 credits toward graduation. (This average does not include developmental credits, which do not count toward earning a credential.)
 - POY students earned similar numbers of credits toward graduation (34.4) as the comparison group (35.6).
- They had an average cumulative GPA of 2.72.
 - POY students had a higher average cumulative GPA (2.72) than the comparison group (2.62).

Source: Power of YOU Program Evaluation by Wilder Research September, 2008

Note: Metro State did not have a POY cohort in fall 2006, so data reflect only MCTC and St. Paul College Fall 2006 POY cohorts.



Appendix

Table 1: First Fall to First Spring Retention

	First Fall to First Spring Retention Rate
Power of YOU - Fall 2006 Cohort ¹	85%
Power of YOU - Fall 2007 Cohort ¹	86%
Power of YOU - Fall 2008 Cohort ¹	88%
Prior Recent H.S. Grads Fall 2004 & 2005 Cohort ¹	72%
MnSCU 2-year Colleges - Fall 2006 Cohort ²	81%
Achieving the Dream - Fall 2002 Cohort ³	70%

Table 2: First Fall to Second Fall Retention

	First Fall to Second Fall Retention Rate
Power of YOU - Fall 2006 Cohort ¹	64%
Power of YOU - Fall 2007 Cohort ¹	57%
Prior Recent H.S. Grads Fall 2004 & 2005 Cohort ¹	50%
MnSCU 2-year Colleges - Fall 2006 Cohort ²	50%
Achieving the Dream - Fall 2002 Cohort ³	48%

¹Source: Power of YOU cohorts and comparison cohort of prior recent high school graduates created by Wilder Research's evaluation of Power of YOU. Includes students from MCTC and St. Paul College for the Fall 2006 POY cohort and includes Metro State for Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 POY cohorts. Metro State did not have a Fall 2006 POY cohort. Retention rate does not include students who completed a credential or transferred.

²Source: MnSCU Persistence and Completion tool. Includes first-time, full-time students entering in Fall 2006 or previous summer term with an admission category of undergraduate regular or undergraduate transfer at all MnSCU colleges. Retention rate does not include students who completed a credential or transferred.

³Source: Building a Culture of Evidence for Community College Student Success: Early Progress in the Achieving the Dream Initiative. Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count is a multi-year national initiative launched by the Lumina Foundation for Education to help more community college students succeed. The 2002 cohort includes 29 institutions from five states. The retention rates are baseline data from the Achieving the Dream evaluation and indicates percentage of entering cohort who enrolled in the semester following enrollment and at least one semester in the second year, respectively. The mean retention rate for the comparison group is reported. Retention rate does not include students who completed a credential or transferred.

