

LEARNMORE_{MN}

Vanishing Graduates & Minnesota's Future

Understanding our state's education challenge

summer 2008

THE VANISHING GRADUATES CHALLENGE:

Minnesota's supply of college educated residents will soon fail to keep up with our economy's demands.

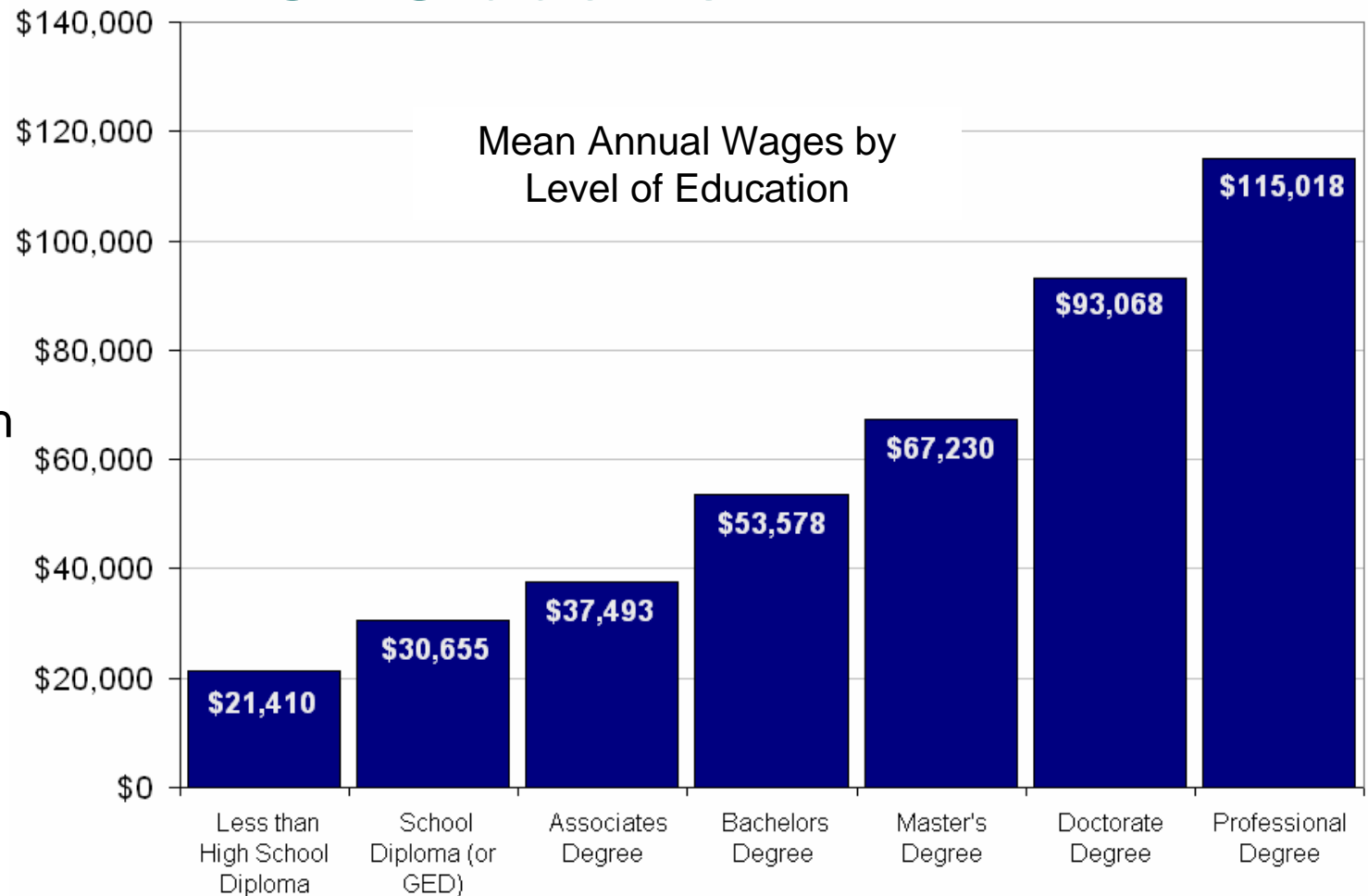
This makes the education of our future workforce more important than ever.

The Vanishing Graduates Impact On Minnesota

- State's quality of life and economy put at risk
- By 2015 Minnesota is forecast to have 13,000 too-few college graduates to meet workforce needs
 - Expect smaller supply of future teachers, doctors, engineers and others
 - Community impact could include lower services, reduced tax base
 - Employers could be forced to leave and innovate elsewhere

The Vanishing Graduates Impact On Students

Lower future earning opportunities and higher unemployment for students with less education

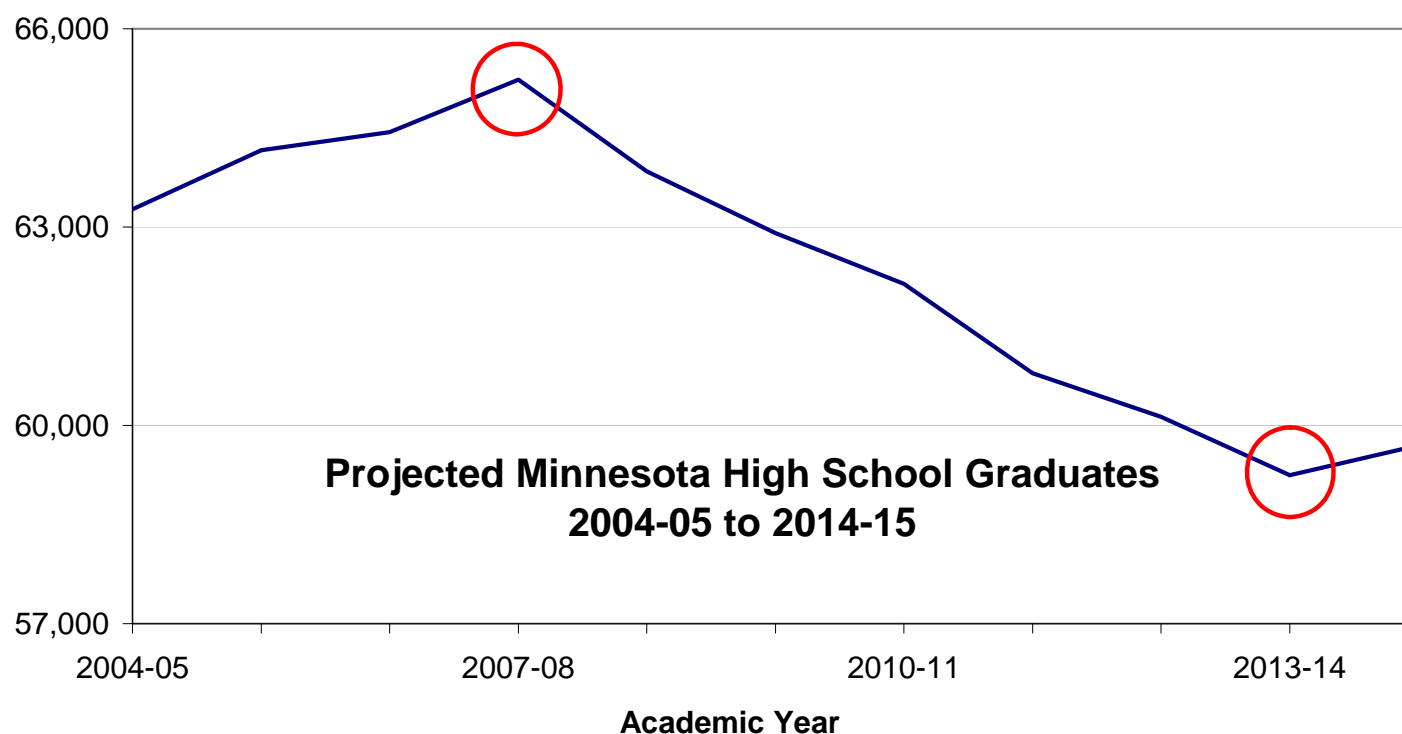


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005

What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #1:

Decline in numbers of high school graduates



Source:
Western
Interstate
Commission on
Higher
Education
(2008)

What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #2:

Lost opportunities when education ends early

- *Consider the ninth graders starting high school this fall across Minnesota*
- *More than 1 in 10 ninth graders won't finish high school*
- *5 in 10 ninth graders will not go on to a 2- or 4-year college*
- *7 in 10 ninth graders will not finish a college degree within 6 years*



What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #3

Education gaps for an increasingly diverse population

Students of color and low-income students have gaps in achievement, enrollment and completion ...

- Minnesota standardized tests for math and reading show differences by race and income
- High school graduation rates for many students of color are low compared to the overall rate of 91% (70% for American Indian students, 70% for Hispanic students, 73% for Black students)
- Minnesota's low-income high school seniors are less likely to go on to college (29% of low-income seniors vs. 65% of all seniors)
- White students graduate from college at a higher rate than students of color

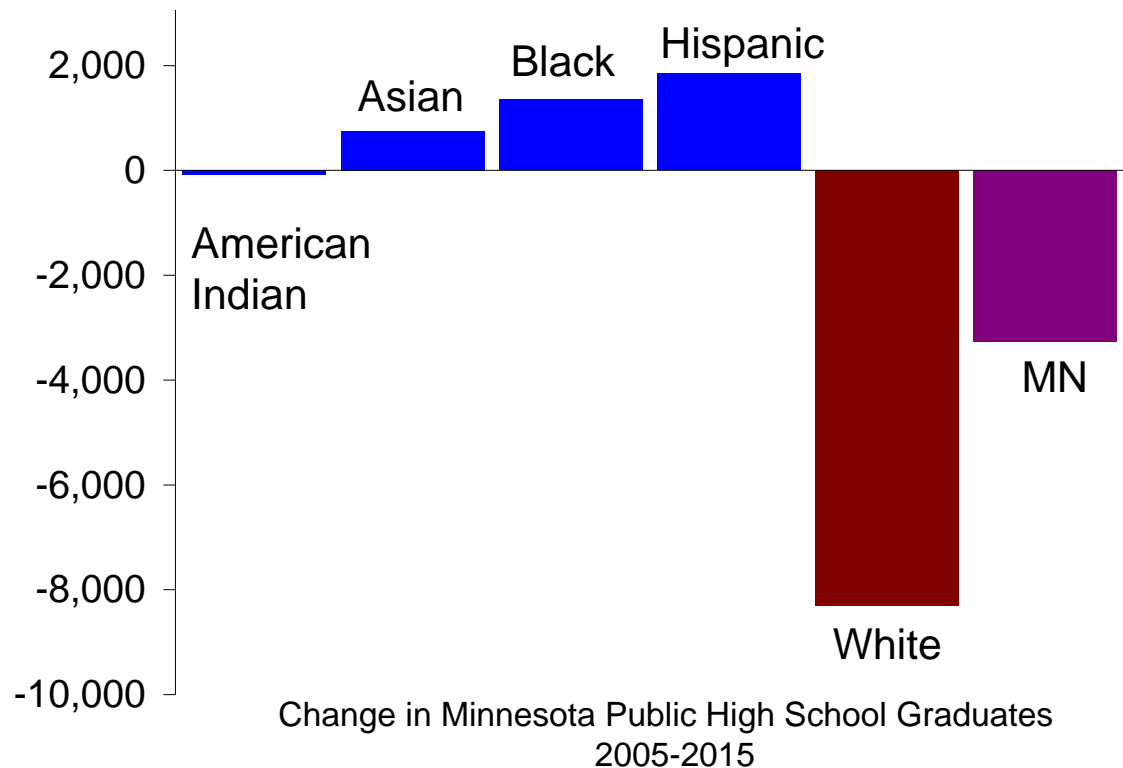
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What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #3 cont.:

Education gaps for an increasingly diverse population

... and racial and economic make-up changing



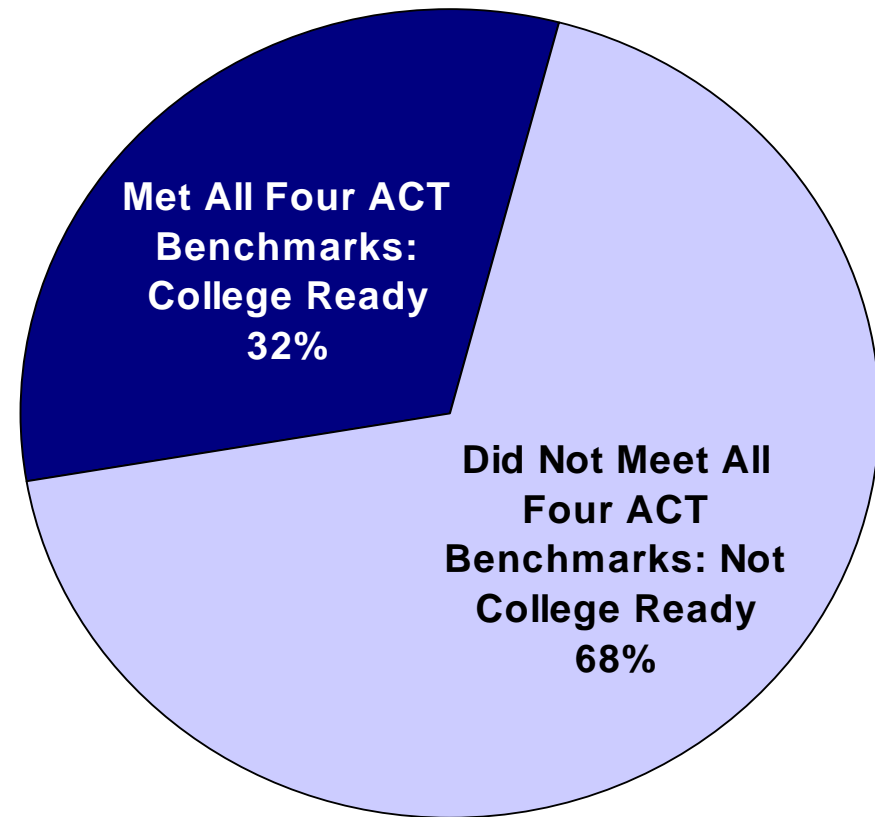
Source: WICHE, 2008

What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #4:

Overall student performance falling short

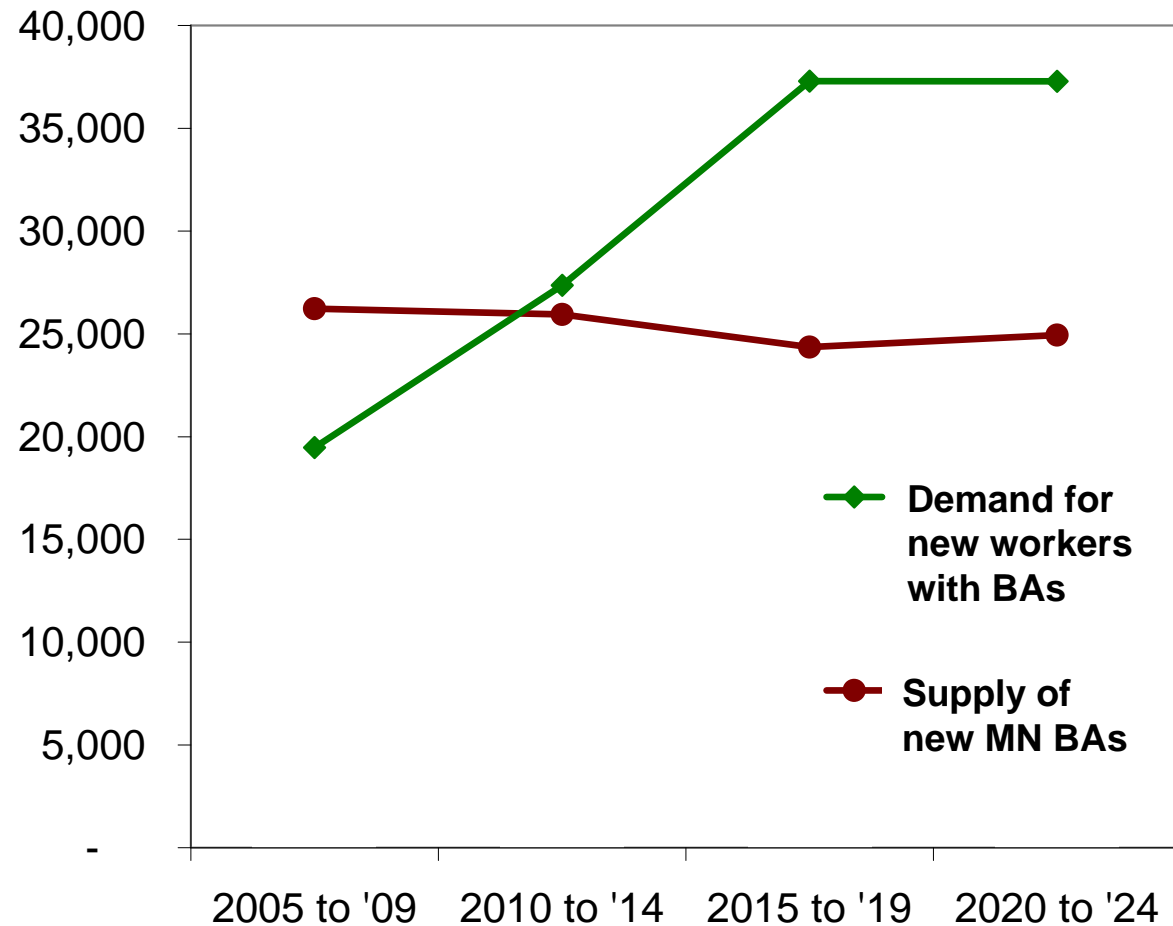
More than two-thirds of Minnesota students failed to meet the benchmarks for college readiness in four key areas (English, reading, math and science)



Source: ACT 2008

What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #5:
Demand for college-educated workers to exceed supply

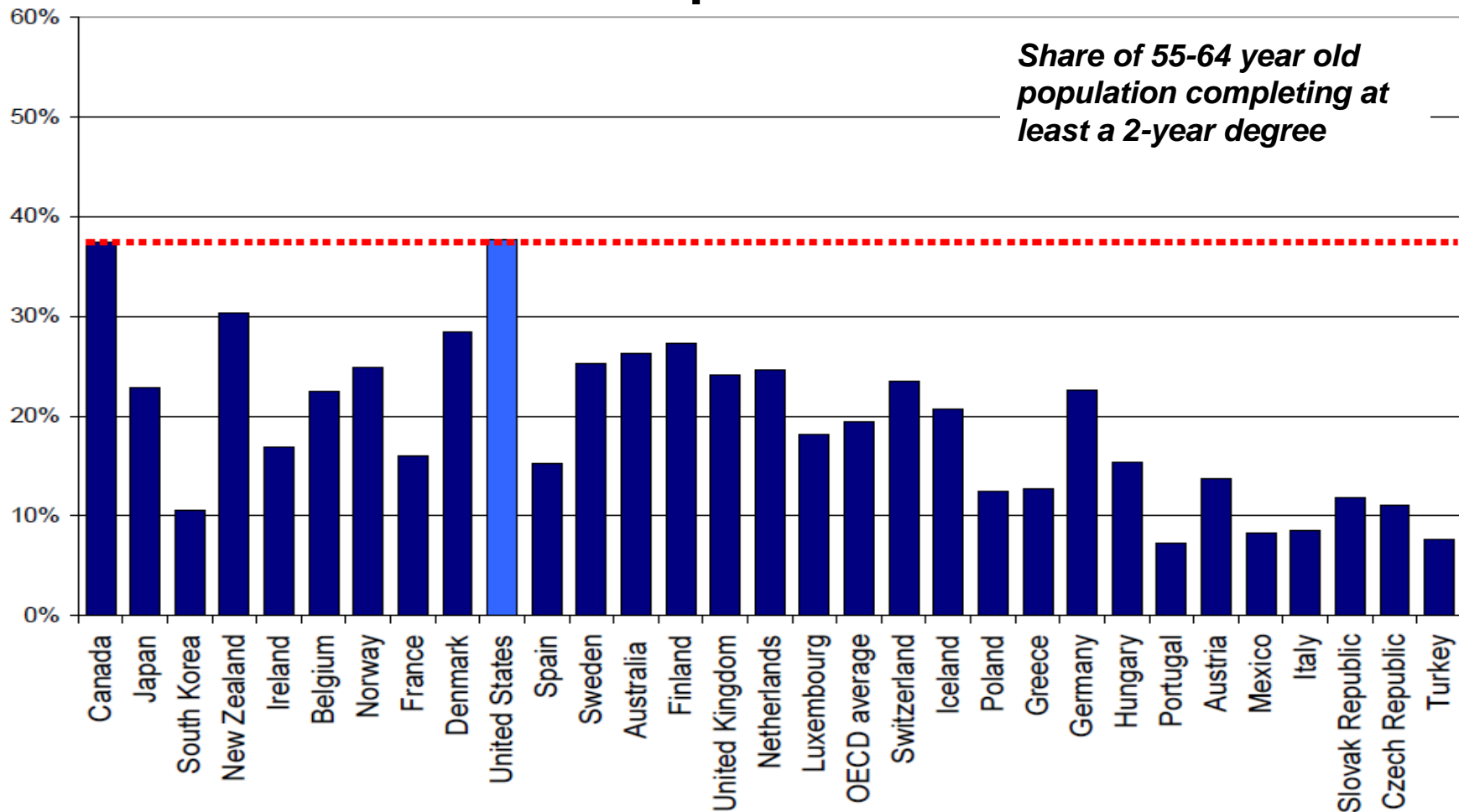


Source: MN Private College Research Foundation

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What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #6: More education required for future innovation

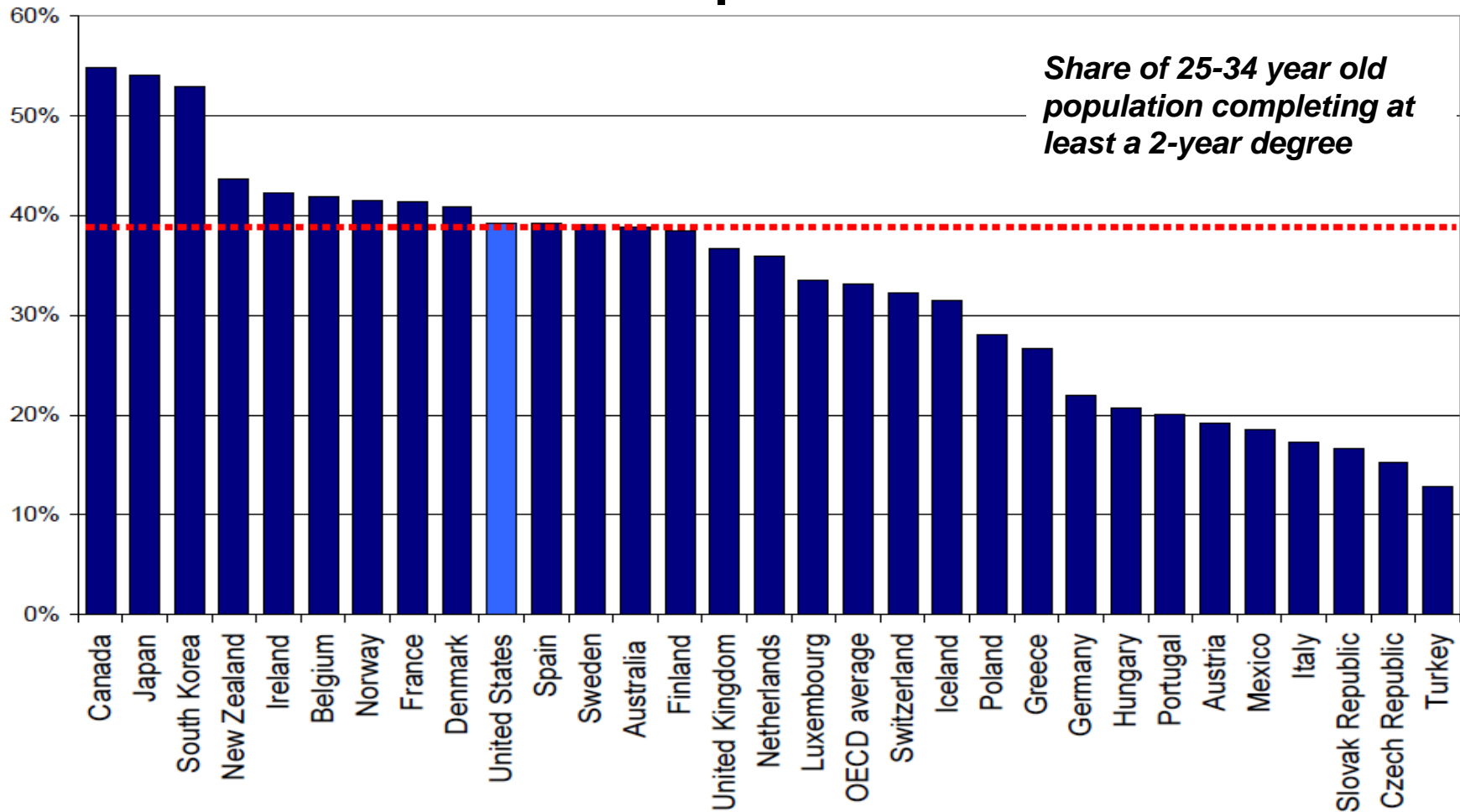


Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Education at a Glance, 2008

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What's creating the Vanishing Graduates Challenge?

Factor #6: More education required for future innovation



Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Education at a Glance, 2008

What Minnesota Can Do: Building Our Brain Power

**“We need to be the state that uses its
brain power when we don’t have the
brawn power anymore.**

But you can’t do that if you don’t have kids
graduating from high school,
enrolling in college and
completing college successfully.”

– Peter Hutchinson, Bush Foundation

What Minnesota Can Do: Building Our Brain Power

- Can we agree on a goal?
 - Ensure all academic roads are rigorous and lead to higher education



What Minnesota Can Do: Building Our Brain Power

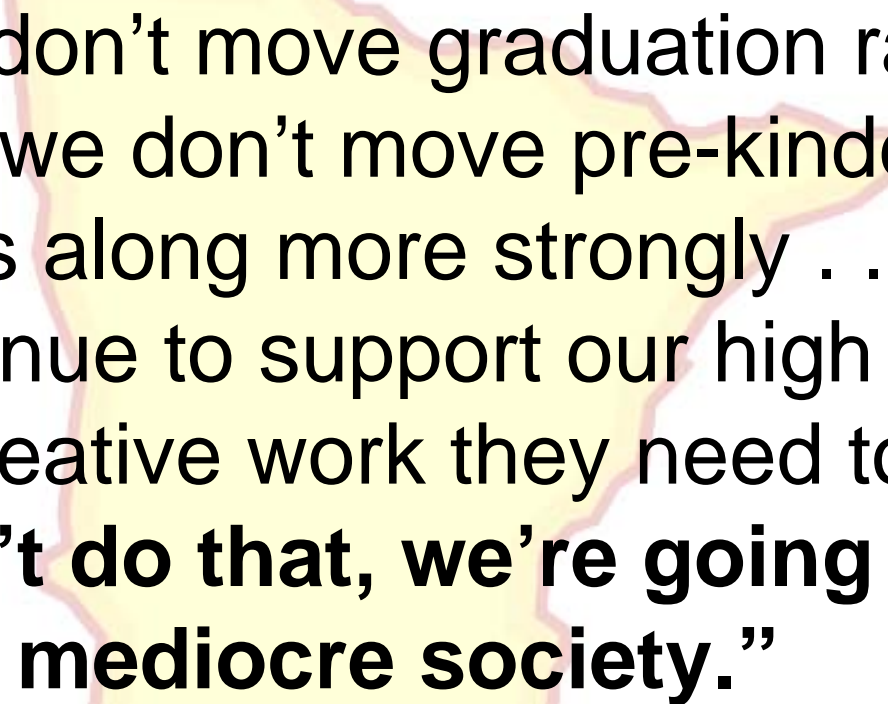
- Solutions are at hand
 - Commit time
 - *Volunteer, mentor, get informed*
 - Help students prepare
 - *Offer information, encouragement, support for academics*
 - Invest money
 - *Set up savings accounts, give money to need-based scholarships, support public investments*
 - Speak up
 - *Share information, responses, questions*

What Minnesota Can Do: Building Our Brain Power

- Change is happening
 - 350 new Minnesotans are being recruited to read with young children in 2008 to improve reading skills
 - Reading test results recently improved by 9% for low-income 10th graders in Minnesota – similar to other groups
 - 95% of low-income students in a Twin Cities college prep program for high schoolers enroll in college
 - Private giving in Minnesota to help students afford college has grown more than 200% over 15 years

What Minnesota Can Do: Building Our Brain Power

- Let's agree to act
 - What steps are already being taken?
 - What's working? Where is the success that you can build on?
 - What new steps are right for you? For your community?



“If we don’t move graduation rates forward, if we don’t move pre-kindergarten programs along more strongly . . . If we don’t continue to support our high schools and the creative work they need to do . . . **If we don’t do that, we’re going to be a mediocre society.**”

– *Jim Peterson, former president, Gustavus Adolphus College and Science Museum of MN*

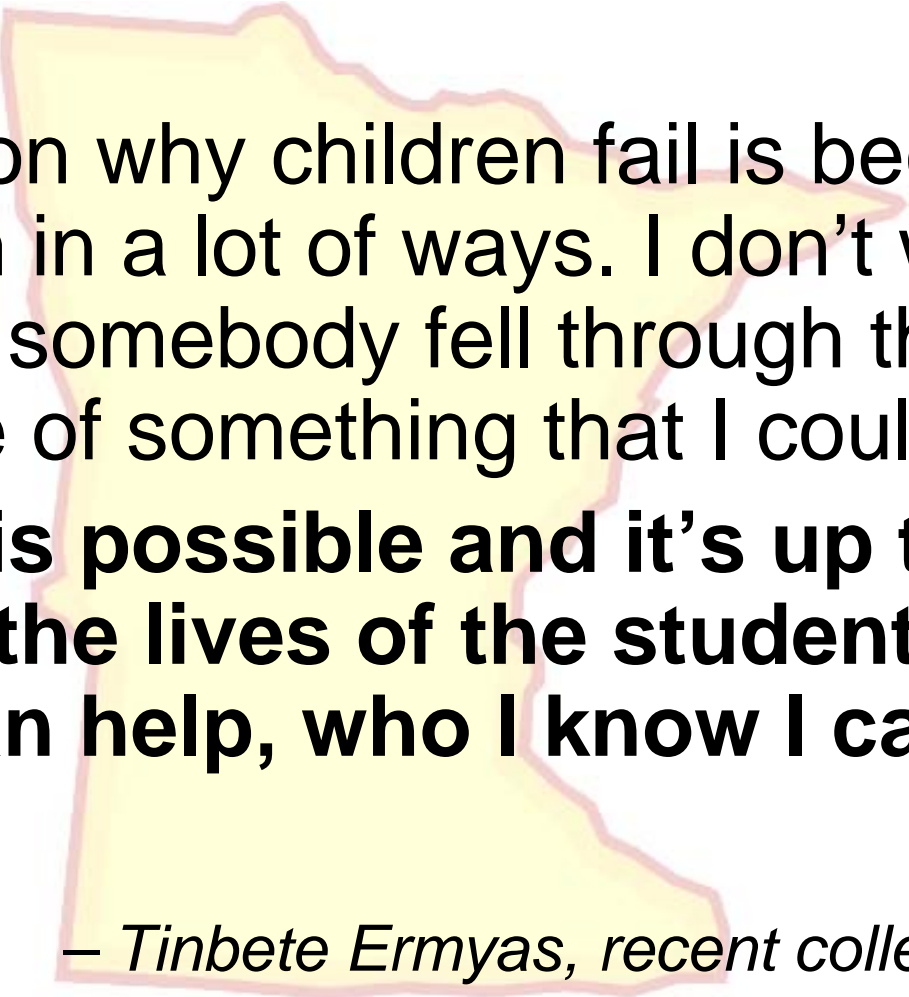
Background

- LearnmoreMN offers resources and information, visit www.learnmoremn.org
- The Minnesota Private College Council initiated LearnmoreMN; others have signed-up as supporters and partners
 - Two key sponsors:



Foundation for Independent
Higher Education

FIHE/UPS National Venture Fund



“The reason why children fail is because we let them in a lot of ways. I don’t want to know that somebody fell through the cracks because of something that I couldn’t do.

Change is possible and it’s up to me to change the lives of the students who I think I can help, who I know I can help.”

– *Tinbete Ermyas, recent college graduate*