



## Women’s Foundation of Minnesota Grant

**What were your program outcomes? (e.g., number of participants served, evidence of increased knowledge or skills, a brief story, other outcomes)**

Twenty students are being served in the Steps to Success program at M State. Eleven students started with the fall 2017 cohort and another 9 students started with the spring 2018 cohort. One hundred percent of fall 2017 cohort participants persisted from fall to spring semester.

All students during the fall cohort received wrap-around services including intensive academic advising, faculty mentoring, social worker and career services. Additionally, students received or were referred for the following: SNAP (2), Childcare (2), Counseling (1), Legal assistance (1), Emergency food supply (4), Fuel cards (11), Time and self-management skills (11), Financial literacy (11), Empowerment/creator mindset skills (11), Stress management skills (11), Laptop (11), Study table (11),

Moreover, as part of the Student Success Seminar/Study Table, all participants had the opportunity to hear from visiting speakers who are successful females in engineering/technology. These women shared their stories, encouragement and advice regarding networking and working in predominately-male fields.

<b>FALL 2017 COHORT</b>	
<b>PERSISTANCE FROM FALL 2017 TO SPRING 2018 – 100%</b>	
<b>FALL GPA</b>	
3.5 OR HIGHER	8
3.0 TO 3.49	1
2.0 TO 2.9	0
2.0 OR BELOW	2
<b>FALL 2017 COMPLETION RATE</b>	
SATISFACTORY PROGRESS (67% OR HIGHER)	9
LESS THAN 67%	2

While two students did not have satisfactory academic progress in GPA or completion rate due to barriers (legal and otherwise), without the connection and support of this program and cohort, it is believed both students would not have returned this spring. Instead, they have worked and continue to work with the Steps to Success team in developing a plan for success this semester. One of these students initiated a visit the first day of the spring 2018 semester to report that she had followed through on her plan to set up a workable study schedule that included a balance between her academic, work and personal lives. Thus far, she has stuck to her schedule and has check-in appointments set up with her advisor. She previously attended a university and was unsuccessful, but with the connections and support of this program, she reports she has a new outlook.

**The following quotes were taken directly from a survey administered to the fall 2017 cohort:**

*"The amount of support I've received from this program is amazing, I rave about it every chance I get. When I first decided to go back to school and had settled on a program, I had no idea where I would get a laptop from. I was planning on using the old HP (with windows VISTA operating system!!!) I had from when I was still in high school and just hope for the best. I literally cried when (staff) gave it to me....the opportunity to meet some other like-minded women and form connections/relationships has been great. It's a chance to just spend some time on whatever you happen to need whether it's vent, bounce ideas back and forth, advice, rant or rave, knowing you are in a place where there is no judgement only support and understanding – that is priceless and I think one of the most beneficial things about this program." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"I am very thankful that I got this opportunity, this class was that final push I needed to go into programming. I am so glad that I...got to meet smart and talented women along the way. Thank you so much!" – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"Please keep it going. I was lucky to have it. I appreciate a computer was offered to me but more I enjoy the class and the learning of how to be success in my educational path." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"The opportunities to get to know classmates. The guest speakers were insanely inspiring! The opportunity to network with other women in similar fields." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"I liked that it gave me a set time built into my schedule to work on things I needed to get done." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"I think this program should be available for all new students." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"I am so thankful that I got to be part of this amazing program. thank you :)" – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"It really helps with the guest speakers because then you can see things first hand and hear what it is like to be inside of those jobs. I really enjoyed this course and it was very helpful towards my degree!" – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"Just the feeling of being in a group, part of a community of women with similar ambitions and challenges, knowing support is there if needed." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*

*"Amazing program in so many ways, could not be more grateful for the use of the laptop for my program, help with gas and the support of both the teachers and my peers." – Fall 2017 cohort participant*