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For More Information  
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## **New national report shows Michigan in bottom 10 of higher education support** *Proposed budget cuts would put state in bottom 5*

A decade of deep cuts to state higher education appropriations has put Michigan in the bottom 10 of all states in per student support for higher education, far behind the national average, according to a new report by the State Higher Education Finance Report 2010, issued by the State Higher Education Executive Officers.

Michigan's per student taxpayer support per full time equivalent student in universities and community colleges has decreased by 19.3 percent in 2010 dollars since 2005, and today stands at \$4,822 per student. The national average is \$6,451, putting Michigan \$1,629 per student behind even the average state.

Michigan's taxpayer support today is 10<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation – even though our state universities as a group are considered among the finest in the nation, on a par with top universities in California and Virginia. If Governor Rick Snyder's cuts go into effect, state support will likely be in the bottom five in the nation.

The report shows overall per student spending on higher education, including tuition, is 14<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation – a bargain for a superior group of institutions.

"We already have seen major reductions in some areas of university activities, helping to allow for additional investing in programs policymakers have expressed interest in, such as increasing the number of graduates and implementation of scholarship programs for low-income students to make up for elimination of state scholarships," said Mike Boulus, executive director, Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan.

"But the cuts at the level being proposed for the 2011-12 budget – with no indication that higher education will be a higher priority in years ahead – will likely result in substantial program eliminations and larger class sizes while making it more difficult to provide financial aid to ensure access for all students," Boulus said.

Michigan's public universities have been doing their part to meet the goal set by Governor Jennifer Granholm of doubling the number of college graduates in Michigan. That goal was established after a commission of business, government and education leaders determined that the single most important factor in a state's prosperity was the percentage of college graduates in its population.

Public universities have increased the numbers of degrees conferred from 2000 to 2009 by nearly 20 percent, from 34,551 to 41,171 – despite massive cuts in state support. Per student total education revenue available to higher education in Michigan, adjusted for inflation, is down 1.8 percent since 2005, according to the SHEEO report.

" At a time when the most prosperous states in the nation are those with the most college graduates, and when Michigan businesses are saying they can't find enough qualified graduates to fill positions, cutting higher education is counterproductive to our state's economic future and the future incomes of our residents," Boulus said.

The SHEEO study is available on line at [http://www.sheeo.org/finance/shef/SHEF\\_FY10.pdf](http://www.sheeo.org/finance/shef/SHEF_FY10.pdf).

*The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan serves as a forum for the presidents and chancellors of the Michigan 15 public universities to discuss and frame positions on key higher education finance and policy issues. You can learn more about the Presidents Council at [www.pcsum.org](http://www.pcsum.org).*