#WeAreMVP, but are we #Iowa?

MULTICULTURAL VISION PROGRAM

The Multicultural Vision Program (MVP) Award grants a full-tuition award to incoming first-year students, who are U.S. Citizens or permanent residents, residents of the state of Iowa and identify as students of color and demonstrate financial need. The Multicultural Vision Program aims to enhance the ISU undergraduate experience by preparing students with the tools to be an agent of change in their community. It will also help them grow as a person by expanding their cultural awareness, building supportive relationships, and achieving academic success. The program is guided by five principles: Sense of Belonging, Social Involvement, Academic Success, Leadership Development and Community Engagement.

ASSESSMENT PURPOSE

The purpose of this assessment project was to determine the extent to which the 99 counties in Iowa were represented in the MVP population and to use that data to inform recruitment practices to diversify the incoming cohort.

METHODS

Staff reviewed eleven years of MVP student data along with census and population data.

INITIAL FINDINGS

43% of MVP selected Scholars were from Polk County and surrounding counties.

20% of Iowa counties were represented by only one student in the MVP cohorts between 2008 and 2018.

25% of Iowa counties were not represented in the MVP cohorts between 2008 and 2018.

MVP RECIPIENTS: 2008-2018

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MVP APPLICANTS: 2019

# County with stronger proportion of people of color

$ County with higher proportion of family at or below poverty line

RESULTS

1. 2019 included applicants from 5 counties that haven’t been represented in the past eleven cohorts.

2. Several counties were represented in numbers rivaling or meeting the total number/overall percent of cohort members from the last eleven years.

3. The percentage of applicants from Polk County remained high at 46%; however, given the diversity in applicant pool, the selected group will show greater geographic diversity.

WHAT’S NEXT?

MSA staff will continue to utilize data and the power of current students and alumni to reach out to influencers in area with little to no MVP representation to further diversify the MVP applicant pools and cohort.

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