

June 2020

Impact of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic among International Students at Minnesota State University Mankato

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Executive Summary

A survey of international students at Minnesota State Mankato was conducted in June 2020 to assess the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic and understand the needs of this population. The survey was conducted by the lead researcher in consultation with and behalf of Remember Me Too, a student group supporting international students at this time, and Minnesota State University Mankato.

FINANCIAL STRAIN

47.5%

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO CURRENTLY RELY ON THEIR FAMILIES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

However, over 80% of these students have experienced a reduction in the amount of support they receive from their families

ALSO THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC

Of those who didn't lose their jobs, over a quarter had the number of hours they work reduced

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

A LACK OF FINANCES HAS LED TO A LOSS OF ACCESS TO RESOURCES AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. CURRENTLY, STUDENTS ARE FACING HOUSING INSECURITY, FOOD INSECURITY, AND SUFFERING LACK OF ACCESS TO OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES

31.4%

The percentage of respondents who will not or are unsure if they will have housing for the remainder of the summer

39.6%

The percentage of respondents who do not know where their next meal will come from

57.3%

The percentage of respondents who will not or are unsure if they will be able to pay their basic living expenses for the remainder of the summer

33.0%

The percentage of respondents who do not have access to reliable transportation when they need it

STUDENT CONCERNS

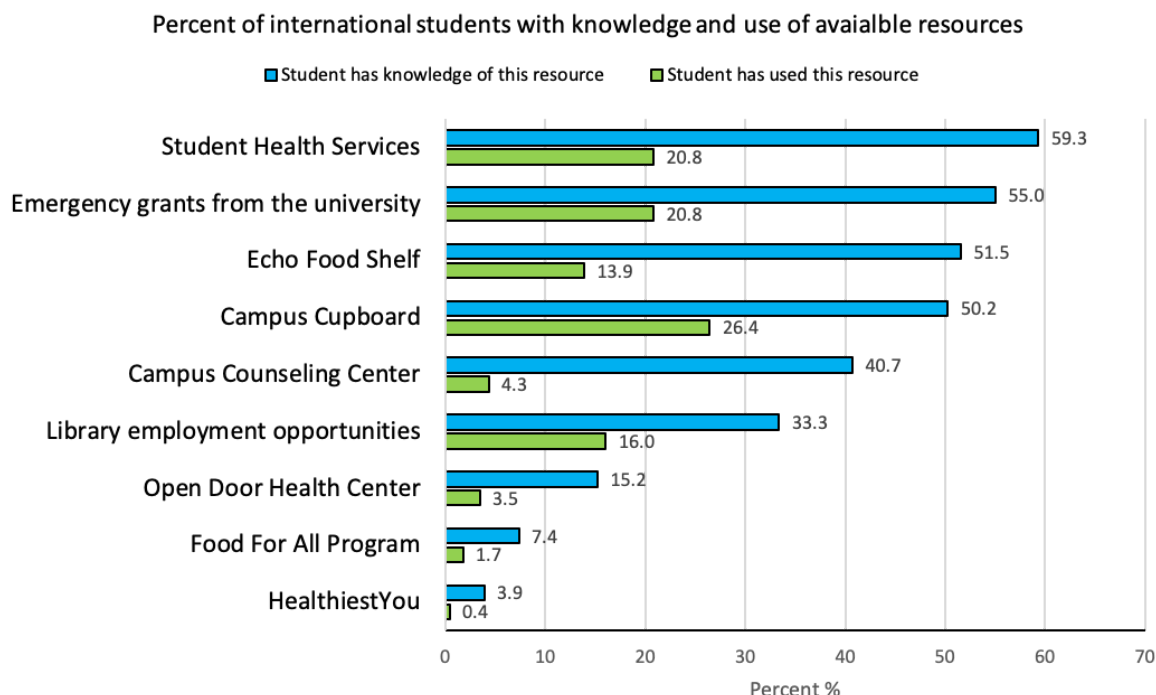
DESPITE A LACK OF ACCESS TO BASIC RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD, THESE ARE NOT AMONG THE MAIN CONCERNS OF RESPONDENTS. THEY IDENTIFY THEIR TOP THREE CONCERNS AS:

1) THE ABILITY TO PAY TUITION AND FEES, 2) EMPLOYMENT, AND 3) MAINTAINING THEIR VISA STATUS

It is important to note that most international students must register for classes in the fall to retain their visa status, but they cannot do this if they hold a balance over \$750 on their University account. Helping international students reduce University balances can help with two of their top concerns

KNOWLEDGE OF RESOURCES

THERE ARE SOME RESOURCES TO ASSIST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RESOURCES IS LOW, WITH FEWER THAN 60% OF RESPONDENTS AWARE OF MANY OF THE MAIN HEALTH, FINANCIAL, OR FOOD ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO THEM. THIS IN TURN HAS RESULTED IN LOW LEVELS OF USE OF THESE RESOURCES



FALL COURSES

86.6%

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO WILL "DEFINITELY" OR "PROBABLY" REGISTER FOR COURSES IN THE FALL 2020 SEMESTER

61.0%

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THAT THE ABILITY TO PAY FOR TUITION MIGHT IMPACT THEIR DECISION TO RETURN IN THE FALL

Though about two-thirds of respondents are comfortable taking classes online, they indicated mixed views on whether they prefer courses in person, for the sake of better learning, or online, due to health concerns.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY

MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO HAS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. EVENSO, THERE IS A NEED TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE SUPPORT THEY ARE GIVING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

About two-thirds responded that they "somewhat" or "strongly" agree with the statements: "I am likely to recommend attending Minnesota State Mankato to other potential international students" & "The Kearney International Center communicates effectively with International Students"

However, there is room for improvement, especially regarding the university's response to the pandemic. only 39.8% agree with the statement: "Minnesota State Mankato has provided me with adequate support during the novel coronavirus pandemic," and most respondents believe the University can do more to help international students.

90.5%

THE PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO THINK THAT MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS