

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(A Component Unit of the State of Minnesota)

Saint Paul, Minnesota

REPORT ON FEDERAL AWARDS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER
MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Commissioner
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
Saint Paul, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, (the "Agency"), a component unit of the State of Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 23, 2020.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Agency's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Agency's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baker Tilly US, LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Baker Tilly US, LLP (formerly known as Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 23, 2020

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM; REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER COMPLIANCE; AND REPORT ON THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL
AWARDS REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Commissioner
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

We have audited the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's (the "Agency"), a component unit of the State of Minnesota, compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Agency's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2020. The Agency's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of its federal awards applicable to its federal program.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for the Agency's major federal program based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Agency's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for the major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Agency's compliance.

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the Minnesota Office of Higher Education complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the Agency's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on the major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for the major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, (the "Agency"), a component unit of the State of Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated October 23, 2020, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Baker Tilly US, LLP

Baker Tilly US, LLP (formerly known as Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP)
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 23, 2020

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

Federal Grantor/ Program Title	CFDA Number	Pass-through Agency	Pass-through Agency Grant Number	Federal Expenditures
U.S. Department of Education				
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs	84.334S	N/A	N/A	\$ 3,435,435
Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems	84.372	MDE	104424	<u>275,284</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education				<u>3,710,719</u>
U.S. Department of Justice				
John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act	16.816	N/A	N/A	<u>41,943</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS				<u>\$ 3,752,662</u>

See accompanying notes to schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the “schedule”) includes the federal award activity of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2020. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through entity identifying numbers are presented where available.

The underlying accounting records for grant programs are maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual, i.e., both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred.

NOTE 3 – INDIRECT COST RATE

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education has not elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate.

NOTE 4 – PASS THROUGH AGENCIES

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education receives federal awards from the following pass-through agency:

MDE Minnesota Department of Education

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITORS' RESULTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP: unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- > Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes X no
- > Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes X none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

_____ yes X no

FEDERAL AWARDS

Internal control over major program:

- > Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes X no
- > Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes X none reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs: unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a) of the Uniform Guidance?

_____ yes X no

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

 X yes _____ no

Identification of major federal program:

CFDA Number

Name of Federal Program

84.334S

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:

\$750,000

MINNESOTA OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

**SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
*GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

None.

SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARDS FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None.