



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

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To: All

From: Steven Rosenstone

Subject: John O'Brien resignation

John O'Brien has informed me that he has accepted the position of President and CEO of EDUCAUSE. EDUCAUSE is the world's leading nonprofit higher education association of technology leaders and professionals comprised of 1,800 member colleges and universities and 300 corporations in 40 countries around the globe. EDUCAUSE focuses on analysis, advocacy, community building, professional development, and knowledge creation to support the transformative role that IT can play in higher education. While the current EDUCAUSE president is retiring in March, John will not assume the presidency until June 1 to ensure continuity in academic and student affairs during the legislative session.

John did not seek out this position or any other opportunities; in fact, he didn't even know about this one until he learned that he was nominated. It is, in his words, a dream job, enabling him to return to his first love from his faculty days at Normandale Community College in the 90s – advancing technology as a game-changer. Now he will have the chance to lead at the national and international level.

As pleased as I am for John and for the leadership role he will be able to play through EDUCAUSE, needless to say, this is a huge loss for our colleges and universities. John's skills, talents, capabilities, values, sense of humor, and leadership will all be sorely missed. He has been a remarkable leader throughout his twenty years of service to MnSCU. On a personal note, John has been a trusted advisor, and I will miss his voice. Please join me in wishing him well as he embarks on this great adventure.

Moving forward, it is my plan to kick off a search for the next Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs in the next few weeks with the hope of bringing a recommendation of the Board of Trustees this summer. Ideally, the appointee will join us around the start of fall semester 2015.