

Leading Minnesota in Early College Innovation

Conversation with Dr. Joel Vargas - A special invitation for MnSCU leaders interested in implementing Early College programs.

Join Dr. Joel Vargas in person on **Thursday, February 5th, 2015 at 5 – 7 PM at Saint Paul College** to discuss Early College designs and how this strategy could be utilized in Minnesota to improve our students' career and college readiness.

Dr. Joel Vargas, vice president from [Jobs for the Future](#), will discuss how postsecondary institutions across the country have developed collaborative partnerships with school districts in rural, suburban, and urban communities to address the achievement/opportunity gap utilizing Early College design principles. Dr. Vargas will share policy structures and various design models that utilize PSEO and concurrent enrollment to address local needs that produce measureable outcomes for students.

RSVP by Friday, January 30th. Space is limited.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-college-innovation-with-joel-vargas-tickets-15092207198>

Contact Jessica Espinosa for more information at Jessica.espinosa@so.mnscu.edu



Dr. Joel Vargas

As vice president, Joel Vargas leads the work of JFF's High School through College team and helps to set the organization's priorities and direction. He also researches and advises on state policies to promote improved high school and postsecondary success for underserved students. He has helped policymakers and intermediary organizations develop state and federal policies that expand early college schools and other school designs incorporating college coursework into high school. Dr. Vargas has directed, initiated, and studied a variety of middle school and high school programs designed to help more underrepresented students get into and through a postsecondary education. He also has been a teacher, editor, and research assistant for the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University. In 2005, Dr. Vargas was featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of "Higher Education's Next Generation of Thinkers." He received a B.S. in journalism from Boston University and an Ed.D. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



**Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES**

What is Early College?

Early College designs combine high school and college in a rigorous, supportive environment that enables students in the academic middle to graduate with college credit and the tools for postsecondary success. This research-based strategy enables more students, particularly low-income and underrepresented students, to experience rigorous high school and college coursework that leads to improved outcomes.

Early college students are outperforming their peers nationwide:

90% graduate high school vs. 78% of students nationally

94% earn free college credit while in high school

30% earn an Associate's degree or other postsecondary credential while in high school