The following descriptions are of our highlighted initiatives. For a complete list of special initiative programs, please refer to page two of this document.

**Advanced Dental Therapist Clinical Training Facility**

The Metropolitan State University Foundation seeks to raise $1.5 million to establish a teaching clinic in which to provide clinical training for students enrolled in the newly established Master of Science: Oral Health Care Practitioner program at Metropolitan State University. The University developed this new graduate program in 2009 in response to growing recognition of the need to improve access to oral health care among under-served populations. In order to meet its students’ educational requirements and planned enrollment growth, Metropolitan State needs to provide a training facility where students can learn, practice and demonstrate clinical skills in advanced dental therapy practice. The funding being sought would be used for the initial operating costs as well as equipment and other capital expenditures needed to establish this clinical training facility.

**Gordon Parks Gallery Project**

Metropolitan State University Foundation seeks to raise $250,000 to support expanded youth and community engagement programming for its art gallery, named after former St. Paul resident Gordon Parks, who overcame an early life of poverty, racial prejudice and injustice to become a noted writer, artist, composer, photographer and filmmaker. The Gallery is dedicated to showing the interdisciplinary artwork of emerging and established artists of varied ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In the next five years, it will build upon Mr. Parks’ legacy by increasing participation of urban youth and the broader community in Gallery exhibits and associated cultural activities, encouraging them to explore the world of art and positive forms of self-expression; and to gain new skills and inspiration to succeed in school, become engaged in their community, and dream big dreams for their future. Educational partners include three local Saint Paul public schools that encompass the K-12 educational spectrum: Dayton’s Bluff Elementary, Cleveland Middle School and Gordon Parks High School.

**Power of YOU Program**

Established in 2006, the Power of YOU was a five-year advocacy/demonstration project to increase significantly the post-secondary participation rates of students graduating from urban core high schools in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Saint Paul College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College and Metropolitan State University collaborated with public and non-profit partners to create a system that guaranteed up to three years of lower division college, tuition free, for prepared urban high school graduates, supporting them to succeed in college, and offered “bridge scholarships” to lower division graduates for continuing bachelor’s level studies. Outreach and support was offered in the public schools and in the community to help youths and their families envision college as part of their futures and understand the career opportunities that a post-secondary education would open to them, and to encourage all high school students in the St. Paul and Minneapolis public schools to prepare for and attain their college goals. To date, we have raised more than $5.6 million out of a $6.2 million goal.

Given that the demonstration project was successful, all three institutions have decided to continue with the Power of YOU Program. MCTC and Saint Paul College will continue to focus on the first two – three years of college because they have a strong infrastructure to help students who are not prepared for college. Metropolitan State will continue to focus on bridge students.
Travelers Pathways Program

Established in 2007, the Travelers Pathways Program is a cooperative educational relationship between Travelers and Metropolitan State University. The Travelers Pathways Program provides the following:

- Development and implementation of a minor in Risk Management and Insurance:
- Provision of $45,000 per year in scholarship opportunities for students majoring in areas relevant to Travelers (called the Travelers Scholars Program): and
- Provision of two dedicated Career Services staff persons at Metropolitan State to work with Travelers staff to provide industry-based experiential learning opportunities that include internships and summer job opportunities for students, mentoring and shadowing, and integration of Travelers employee expertise through speakers, site visits or other company training, on-campus interviewing, networking and other events. To date, we have received $592,000 from Travelers Foundation for this program.

New program opportunities are regularly being developed. Do check back every so often to see what you might be additionally interested in supporting.

- Advanced Dental Therapist Clinical Training Facility
- College of Arts & Sciences
- College of Management
- College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- College of Professional Studies
- Center for Community-Based Learning
- Disability Services
- First College
- Friends of the President
- Gordon Parks Gallery
- Library and Learning Center
- Library Tile & Brick Endowment Fund
- Power of YOU Program
- School of Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice
- Travelers Pathways Program
- Veteran and Military Student Service Center

For more information about these programs email us at contribute@metrostate.edu.