ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 23, 2018 – The Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association (MPMA) Education Foundation today presented Minnesota State with a contribution of $30,000 for scholarships that will be offered to new students entering advanced manufacturing programs at Minnesota State colleges. The contribution will supplement scholarships that are being offered under the Workforce Development Scholarship program beginning Fall, 2018.

Initially funded by a $1 million appropriation from the 2017 session of the Minnesota Legislature, the Workforce Development Scholarships will be available to new students enrolling at any Minnesota State college in associate degree, diploma, or certificate programs that prepare graduates for careers in high demand sectors including advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care services, and information technology. Business and industry partners have the opportunity to supplement these scholarships through private contributions -- the MPMA contribution will be used to supplement scholarships offered to students entering advanced manufacturing programs.

“The colleges of Minnesota State play a critical role in developing the skilled workforce that manufacturers in Minnesota need in order to thrive,” said Amy Walstien, Executive Director of the MPMA. “These workforce development scholarships will encourage more students to enter the exciting fields of advanced and precision manufacturing, and the MPMA is pleased to offer our support.”
Students interested in learning more about these scholarships or applying for admission, or employers or associations interested in funding scholarships within specific sectors should contact any of the 30 colleges of Minnesota State.

“Minnesota State delivers the highest value, most affordable higher education option in the state,” said Devinder Malhotra, interim chancellor of Minnesota State. “This very generous contribution from the MPMA will make the Workforce Development Scholarships go even further for our students, and will advance our ability to meet the pressing need for a talented workforce for manufacturers in Minnesota.”

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Minneapolis State includes 30 community and technical colleges and seven state universities serving approximately 375,000 students. It is the fourth-largest system of two-year colleges and four-year universities in the United States.

Photo caption: From left:
Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association: Executive Director Amy Walstien, Treasurer John Madsen, and President Tom Chacon.
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Chair Michael Vekich, Interim Chancellor Devinder Malhotra.