

# Become a GradNation Community in Minnesota!

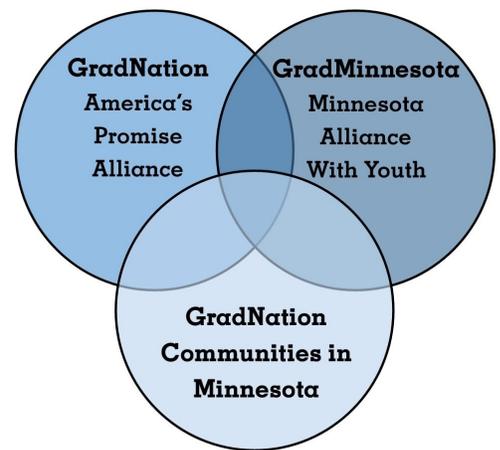


## What is a GradNation Community?

GradNation ([www.gradnation.org](http://www.gradnation.org)) is a multi-partisan campaign led by America's Promise Alliance that aims to end the nation's dropout crisis by the end of this decade. GradNation Communities are coalitions of people from different organizations working together. Their goal is to improve high school graduation rates and help young people succeed in school, work and life. GradNation Communities are typically hosted by a lead organization that convenes the meetings and gathers key stakeholders. Examples of host organizations include school districts, a children's or county collaborative, foundations such as the United Way, and postsecondary institutions.

Communities can become part of this network by adopting the goal to increase the high school graduation rate to 90% by 2020. Additionally, GradNation communities in Minnesota commit to:

- Raising all aggregate graduation rates of high schools in the community's target area to at least 80 percent; and aiming for a 90% graduation rate for all student groups
- Collaboratively engaging cross-sector stakeholders to increase local graduation rates
- Identifying shared priorities and focus areas for collaborative work
- Sharing best practices and strategies
- Providing an annual update on progress and challenges



## What is GradMinnesota?

GradMinnesota ([mnyouth.net/work/gradminnesota](http://mnyouth.net/work/gradminnesota)) is an initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth, and is the statewide affiliate of GradNation. Our vision is that all young people in Minnesota will graduate from high school prepared for success in postsecondary opportunity, work, civic engagement, and life.

## How does becoming a part of this network benefit the community?

GradNation Communities in Minnesota have the benefit of receiving supports from GradNation and GradMinnesota. Communities are invited to sit on the GradMinnesota Advisory Council, receive a monthly statewide newsletter and have access to the GradMinnesota network and resources.

Available services include:

- Invitations to professional development and networking opportunities
- Connections to partners, experts, and other resources
- Access to research-based tools and knowledge
- Guidance for driving awareness, building public will, and increasing youth voice
- Access to communication, messaging, and community engagement tools
- Guidance on how to sustain and fund community efforts
- Technical assistance and possible funding opportunities
- Promoting integrating partnerships

## How can our community become recognized as a GradNation Community in Minnesota?

Contact Cammy Lehr, GradMinnesota Project Coordinator at [clehr@mnyouth.net](mailto:clehr@mnyouth.net).