

2019 Legislative Agenda

Minnesota High Tech Association

STEM Workforce Development

MHTA's goal is to ensure a well-educated STEM workforce to meet the current and future demands of the state's science and technology employers. A key component of this is ensuring that we retain talented students here in Minnesota after they receive their associate, undergraduate and graduate degrees. **To help prepare our next generation of STEM talent, MHTA is requesting:**

- \$3.46 million over FY2020-21 for the **SciTechsperience Internship Program**, to provide at least 825 STEM internships over the next two years.

Science and Technology Infrastructure

MHTA's goal is to strengthen Minnesota's science and technology ecosystem through funding for research and development activities and financing for entrepreneurs. That's why MHTA is requesting funding, policy changes and the establishment of a new program to support and encourage these initiatives. **MHTA's request includes:**

- Reinststate the **Angel Investment tax credit to \$20 million/year** to encourage investment in Minnesota-based science and technology startups.
- Establish a state-funded matching grant program for recipients of awards from the federal **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)** or **Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)** programs.
- Establish an elective state **alternative simplified R&D tax credit** of six percent on all qualified research expenses for the taxable year above the base amount.

Cybersecurity

MHTA's goal is to grow Minnesota's software industry and protect unwanted access of digital assets. An important aspect of protecting digital assets is sharing information. The ability for policymakers and others to share confidential or sensitive information is crucial, especially in time-sensitive or security-related incidents—ensuring the Legislature has in place the structure to gather the appropriate information is crucial to its ability to make informed decisions on a complex, sensitive topic like cybersecurity. **That's why MHTA recommends establishing a:**

- **Legislative cybersecurity commission** to develop legislation to support and strengthen Minnesota's cybersecurity infrastructure.
- **Cybersecurity task force**, composed of cybersecurity professionals from the private sector, government and academia, to make policy recommendations to the governor for how to strengthen Minnesota's cybersecurity infrastructure.

Broadband and Telecommunications

MHTA's goal is to expand the availability and use of broadband technology to access new markets, enhance educational access, improve quality of life, and provide Minnesota citizens and businesses the capabilities necessary to compete in a dynamic, global marketplace. **MHTA's recommendations include:**

- Support the **recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband** to expand access to broadband throughout Minnesota.
- **Uphold Minnesota's existing Internet privacy statutes and regulations** and encourage any clarification or refinement of statutes and regulations pertaining to the Internet to occur at the federal level.

STEM Higher Education

Ensuring that Minnesota's institutions of higher education are well-funded and able to provide a cutting edge, quality education is critical to helping Minnesota maintain its competitive advantage. That's why MHTA supports funding requests from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State. **In particular, MHTA supports the following 2019 budget requests:**

- University of Minnesota
 - \$87 million increase in funding over base budget (part of which supports research and technology infrastructure).
- Minnesota State
 - \$37 million to support ISRS Next Gen, a mission-critical, multi-year technology infrastructure project to replace our out-of-date enterprise technology system and substantially improve the student experience.
 - \$15 million to address the workforce gap through innovative career, technical and professional programming serving business and industry.



Public Policy Principles

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) advocates for public policy that strengthens Minnesota's technology-based economy and positions Minnesota as a global leader through the development and use of advanced technologies.

MHTA develops, supports and advocates for policies that promote the long-term growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy.

MHTA believes that strong, consistent, focused leadership from the private sector, working in collaboration with academic, nonprofit and government partners, is the critical link in driving our state's development and recognition as a global technology leader.

MHTA will advocate for policies that strengthen Minnesota's science and technology workforce, as well as those that leverage technology to increase government efficiency and improve and sustain Minnesota's infrastructure.

MHTA will sponsor, support and/or respond to legislation that furthers these principles. Additionally, MHTA will respond to issues and potential legislation that affect member companies and technology businesses in Minnesota as they arise.

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