

## Agency Endowment Fund

# GRAUC is Building Tomorrow's Future Today



When Minnesota state universities were being located, the once sleepy community of Rochester probably wasn't even on the radar. That's because no one could imagine it would one day prosper and become home to a world-class medical facility. Though Rochester did become home to three quality higher education opportunities: Rochester Community and Technical College, Winona State University - Rochester, and University of Minnesota - Rochester, the need for additional higher education opportunities remains.

Enter the Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges (GRAUC), which encourages and promotes innovative practices that leverage public education resources to best serve students, employers, and the community. Well-known for its advocacy, GRAUC helped secure state higher education capital bonding and local sales tax funds to enable the growth and development of the University Center Rochester and University of Minnesota - Rochester campuses. In addition, its board members actively support the complementary missions of Rochester's three public colleges and universities. With a long-standing tradition of representing the community on education committees and task forces, GRAUC continually seeks to better understand area higher education needs and secure solutions to meet current and future workforce demands.

What does the future hold? Investing in programs and projects that identify gaps between education, industry, and business will help GRAUC build bridges to fill the skilled workforce shortage. GRAUC plans to accomplish this by growing its endowment fund so that individuals interested in creating a link among education, business, and industry can support project grants through the fund. GRAUC's Endowment Fund supports its ability to:

- Enhance and support the growth and improvement of higher education in the Greater Rochester Area.
- Promote partnerships between higher education and other agencies or business and industry.

"GRAUC is well positioned to take an independent, futuristic view to influence partnerships between business, industry, and education," says Hal Henderson, board chair. "We need now, more than ever, a well-skilled, engaged, and highly qualified workforce that contributes to the overall success and growth of the greater Rochester area. Funding of these projects will have a significant and positive impact throughout the region on higher education, economic growth, and return on taxpayer investment."

