



**NDSA-06-1819**

## **A Resolution in Support of Funding the North Dakota University System**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, the budget for higher education was significantly reduced during the 65th Assembly of the North Dakota State Legislature due to tax revenue shortfalls from oil and agricultural commodities; and,

**WHEREAS**, Governor Doug Burgum released budget guidelines on April 18, 2018 calling for a 10 percent base budget reduction for large government agencies, which includes higher education; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota is experiencing an unprecedented workforce shortage as evidenced by over 15,000 job openings and a 2.3 percent unemployment rate; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional budget cuts to higher education would significantly complicate the ability for higher education institutions to provide a quality education, as well as harm their regional and national competitiveness; and,

**WHEREAS**, higher education will prove instrumental in diversifying North Dakota's economy and advancing the state towards financial stability and economic prosperity; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NDSA opposes a state budget that does not provide sufficient funding to the NDUS and its 11 colleges and universities; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NDSA shall adopt funding for higher education as one of its 2019 legislative priorities.