

August 2017

**TO:** Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

**FROM:** Mary Jo Nichols  
Grants Administrator

**RE:** Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

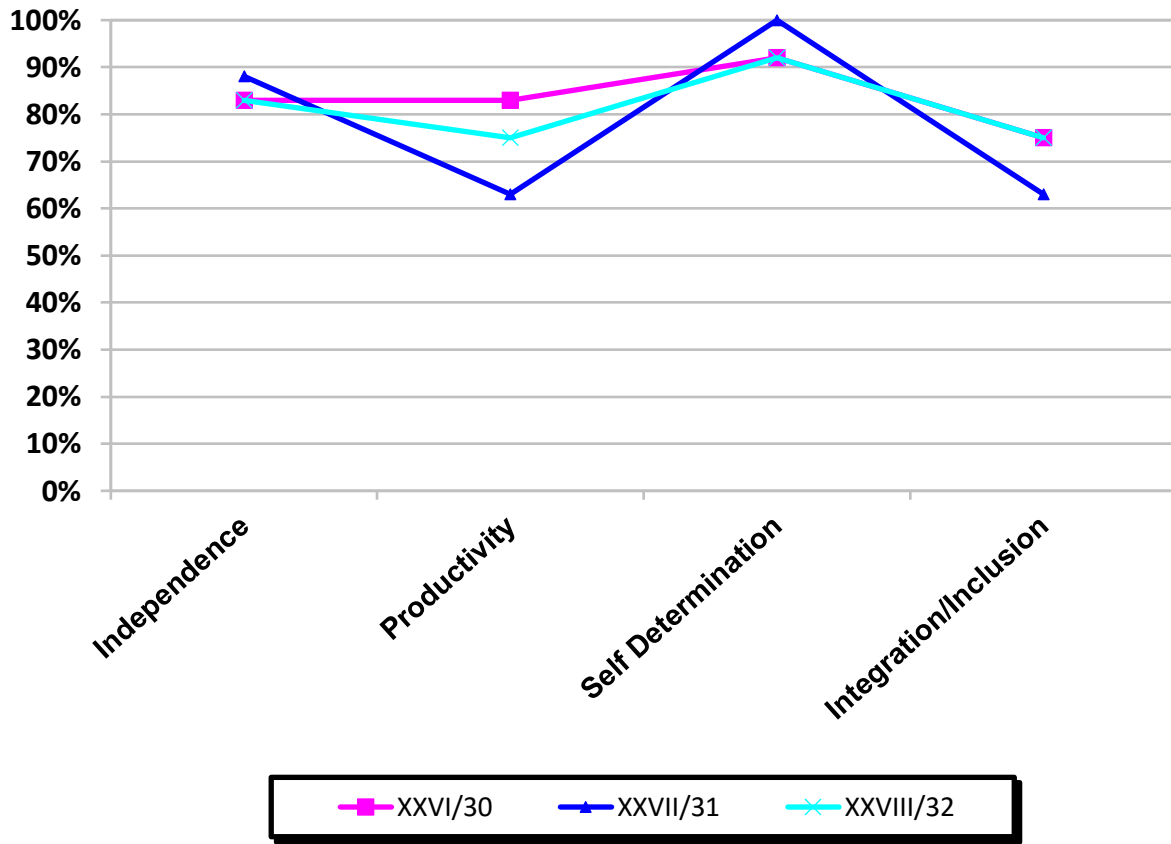
The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University, and submitted on May 11, 2017. Partners Years XXVI through XXVIII (Classes 30 through 32) are included in this year's study.

The overall response rate was 42% (32/77); our goal is 40%.

A copy of the complete study is available upon request. Following is a summary of the results:

#### **IPSII Results by Year/Class**

	<b>XXVI/30</b>	<b>XXVII/31</b>	<b>XXVIII/32</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	44%	32%	48%
<b>↑ Independence</b>	83%	88%	83%
<b>↑ Productivity</b>	83%	63%	75%
<b>↑ Self Determination</b>	92%	100%	92%
<b>↑ Integration/Inclusion</b>	75%	63%	75%



	XXVI/30	XXVII/31	XXVIII/32
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	100%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills**	83%	100%	100%

\* Most/some of the time  
 \*\* Good-excellent

**NOTE:** The 2014 Longitudinal Study added a statement about contacting or working with public officials about employment issues, services and supports, and the quality of employment services. For the 2017 Study, a total of 32 Partners graduates responded “yes” to this question – 27/32 (84%).

Partners graduates identified significant changes in the areas of education, employment, housing, family support, case management, health care, friendships, assistive technology, and other areas that they attribute to their Partners experience.

Highlights are as follows:

Education:

1. I have taken the initiative to contact and work with our Community Ed program and their classes offered. I have heard a lot of positive feedback about my contributions.
2. My daughter inclusion at school and I have become involved in her schools PTO and our school now offers accommodations for school carnival, book Fair and other events so all kiddos can participate in school events. And leading other schools in our district to try to do the same.
3. I started college.
4. I have better services at school for my son.
5. I successfully advocated for my son to get his service dog into school with his one on one para providing support.
6. I am involved in our SEAC/PAC.
7. I have spoken up about my son's education and it has improved significantly.

Employment:

1. Rather than enrolling our daughter in the traditional sheltered workshop, we have been job searching and we are in the process of figuring out a way for her to achieve her goal of working with horses. It is coming together!
2. I got my first job ever (it was a competitive summer job too).

3. I was able to get a career.
4. My son is working.
5. I've gotten more into photography and journalism. A lot has happened around that.

#### Public Policy

1. I started lobbying a lot more and am now running for public office (City Council) in Duluth, MN. I doubt I would have been so passionate and prepared if not for Partners.
2. I've met with Legislators.
3. I gained much needed knowledge of the legislative process.
4. I have engaged more legislators and become more outspoken about the issues that matter to my family.

#### Services/Supports

1. I was able to obtain a caddy waiver for my brother.
2. I am now a support planner and earning some money for my family that way.
3. I was able to get a CADI waiver for my child.
4. I knew where to go/who to report about abuse and neglect issues for my mom who has advanced Alzheimer's and lives in a nursing home.
5. Improved advocacy to get the supports needed for my child.
6. I have a person centered plan.
7. I'm helping a friend advocate for her mom, and report abuse issues in a nursing rehab facility where her mom is now. I advised her to report to an ombudsman and make sure to have him/her be involved in their meetings with nursing rehab staff. Staff also reported the situation to Protective Services for Vulnerable Adults.

8. It gave me the knowledge to pursue all benefits for my son. The consumer support grant is the main thing that has changed; before this class I was unaware of the program.

Other:

1. I've made many long lasting friendships.
2. It has helped me know about things people ask me about.

Partners graduates identified skills learned during the program and ones that they continue to use today in both work and family life. This is an indicator of the long term benefits can value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Legislative advocacy (10)
- Personal advocacy (6)
- Communication (4)
- Networking (4)
- Confidence (3)
- Assertiveness (2)
- Self determination/life choices (2)
- Community activism/community organizing (1)
- Developing friendships/relationships (1)
- Government/how it works (1)