

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2010

Agenda Item: Mission Approvals: Northland Community and Technical College

Proposed
Policy Change

Approvals
Required by
Policy

Other
Approvals

Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements requires institutions to have their missions approved by the Board of Trustees at least once every five years.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Anne Temte, President, Northland Community and Technical College

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The vision, mission and purposes presented by Northland Community and Technical College reaffirm the vision, mission, and purposes approved by the Board of Trustees in 1999. The reaffirmed statements meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

BOARD ACTION

Mission Approvals: Northland Community and Technical College

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision, mission and goals of Northland Community and Technical College meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements. The college is reaffirming its mission and vision under the new Board policy requirement that colleges and universities seek Board approval at least once every five years. The mission was last approved by the Board of Trustees in May 1999 with subsequent review of institution plans during the northwest region reconfiguration in 2003.

Northland Community and Technical College’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:

Vision: Northland Community and Technical College will be widely recognized as a progressive leader in community and technical college education, responsive to the needs of our learners through the use of partnerships, innovation and technology.

Mission: Northland Community and Technical College is dedicated to creating a quality learning environment for all learners through partnerships with students, communities, businesses, and other educational institutions.

Purposes:

Purpose/Goal 1: Inspire Student Success by increasing retention rates, graduation rates and transfer rates to baccalaureate institutions and by closing the achievement gap for underrepresented students.

Purpose / Goal 2: Cultivate quality programs, services, and employees through employing external standards, utilizing assessment measures throughout the college, developing and training employees, engaging in continuous improvement, and enhancing stakeholder satisfaction.

Purpose / Goal 3: Revolutionize growth strategies to sustain vibrant learning communities through increasing enrollment, increasing net annual revenue from entrepreneurial and philanthropic sources, and developing new programs and delivery methods to address needs of learners and regional economies.

1 **Array of Awards:** Northland Community and Technical College offers the Associate in Arts
2 degree, Associate in Science degree, Associate in Applied Science degree, Diplomas and
3 Undergraduate Certificates.
4

5 **BACKGROUND**

6 Northland Community & Technical College, as it exists today, is the outcome of many changes
7 in state governance structures that dictated mergers and dissolutions of educational institutions.
8 Since July 1, 2003, Northland has consisted of two major campuses in Thief River Falls and East
9 Grand Forks. Prior to this merger, the East Grand Forks Campus had been a part of Northwest
10 Technical College, a five campus college with its administrative center in Perham, MN. The
11 Thief River Campus was a separate college that was created through the merger of the Thief
12 River Falls campus of Northwest Technical College and Northland Community College in 1995.
13

14 Both the East Grand Forks campus and the technical college in Thief River Falls had their roots
15 as area vocational technical institutes (AVTIs) administered through local school districts.
16 Northland Community College was initially Thief River Falls Junior College and administered
17 by the local school district. These origins still engender deep-rooted community attachments to
18 the campuses. Each institution brought a long history of serving the needs of area students and
19 employers. With the advent of online education, the college has expanded its reach far beyond
20 the Red River Valley and northwestern Minnesota. Currently, Northland Community and
21 Technical College also maintains outreach educational sites in Roseau and Mahanomen.
22

23 The Higher Learning Commission approved a Request for Change in 2005 that recognized the
24 newly merged institution. Reaccreditation (under the PEAQ process) as a combined college was
25 scheduled for 2010. That evaluative visit occurred in April, 2010. The team has recommended
26 reaccreditation with the next full visit scheduled for the 2019-2020 cycle. The Commission will
27 take action on this recommendation in October, 2010.
28

29 **OVERVIEW OF MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES**

30 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Northland Community and Technical College
31 meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions,
32 Part 4: Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

33 As required by procedure, the institution must:

- 34 A. Describe how its mission and vision align with the requirements in Policy 3.24;
- 35 B. Articulate how the college or university will meet expectations of law, how it relates to
36 other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision, and purposes
37 support fulfillment of the system mission and vision;
- 38 C. Describe the array of awards it offers;
- 39 D. Include a statement that the college or university mission is compliant with statute,
40 policy, and regional accreditation requirements; and
- 41 E. Describe consultation with faculty and staff, students, employers and other essential
42 stakeholders.
43

44 **REVIEW OF NORTHLAND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S** 45 **MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES/GOALS**

1 **The mission, vision, and purposes respond to the system procedure.** Northland Community
2 and Technical College’s vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and
3 regional accreditation requirements. The college mission, vision, and purposes as articulated in
4 planning documents demonstrate alignment with the system mission and vision. The college
5 updated its strategic plan in 2009 upon broad consultation with students, faculty, staff,
6 community members, and business and industry.
7

8 The *mission* for the college is “Northland Community and Technical College is dedicated to
9 creating a quality learning environment for all learners through partnerships with students,
10 communities, businesses, and other educational institutions.” To advance this mission, the
11 college is committed to serving students, communities, businesses, and other educational
12 institutions through technical and liberal arts education provided in modalities and locations that
13 are relevant to constituents and partners. The institution has identified outcomes centered on
14 student success that are measured through enrollment, retention, completion, transfer, and
15 employment data and surveys of student engagement and employer satisfaction. Through the
16 Strategic Plan (2009-2014) the college also is committed to quality and growth with metrics
17 defined to measure these outcomes.
18

19 The Northland mission supports the system mission in the following ways:

- 20 • Northland Community and Technical College offers a diverse array of liberal arts and
21 technical academic offerings to meet the needs of diverse learners and prepares them for
22 future education or technical/professional careers.
- 23 • Northland Community and Technical College’s campuses in East Grand Forks and Thief
24 River Falls and sites in Roseau and Mahnommen are considered distinct assets in their
25 communities for personal development and community enhancement.
- 26 • Northland Community and Technical College contributes to the economic health and
27 development of its region through educational offerings that are relevant to existing
28 business and industry needs and innovative to meet evolving needs. Customized and
29 continuing education is offered through college’s Center for Outreach and Innovation.
30

31 The *vision* for the college is that “Northland Community and Technical College will be widely
32 recognized as a progressive leader in community and technical college education, responsive to
33 the needs of our learners through the use of partnerships, innovation, and technology.” This
34 vision aligns with the system vision to provide access to an array of educational offerings in the
35 college’s region and commits the college and its personnel to student success, quality, and
36 growth. The vision and accompanying planning documents support innovation and resource
37 cultivation to enable the college to provide its programs and services at reasonable cost and high
38 value to learners. Northland Community and Technical College envisions a future in which the
39 college will draw students to its quality programs from regional, national, and global audiences
40 and effectively utilize resources to address new and emerging economic conditions and
41 employment needs of individuals and businesses. The college also envisions significant progress
42 serving students of color based on efforts to close the achievement gap.
43

44 The college anticipates the following changes in the future:

- 45 • The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry will have a profound impact on the
46 economy of northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. Northland, with its UAS

1 maintenance technology program, will join the University of North Dakota and the Grand
2 Forks Air Force Base in addressing the needs of this emerging industry

- 3 • The region has in some respects “skipped” the recession with the economic strength of
4 the Upper Red River Valley region possibly leading to a reversal of the population losses
5 suffered over the past several decades.
- 6 • The college will have substantial revenues from partnerships, contracts, grants, and
7 appropriations to sustain innovation and invest in technology.

8
9 The *purposes* of Northland Community and Technical College are:

10 **Purpose/Goal 1: Inspire Student Success** by increasing retention rates, graduation rates, and
11 transfer rates to baccalaureate institutions and by closing the achievement gap for
12 underrepresented students.

13
14 **Purpose / Goal 2: Cultivate quality programs, services, and employees** through employing
15 external standards, utilizing assessment measures throughout the college, developing and training
16 employees, engaging in continuous improvement, and enhancing stakeholder satisfaction.

17
18 **Purpose / Goal 3: Revolutionize growth strategies** to sustain vibrant learning communities
19 through increasing enrollment, increasing net annual revenue from entrepreneurial and
20 philanthropic sources, and developing new programs and delivery methods to address needs of
21 learners and regional economies.

22
23 Northland Community and Technical College’s goals contribute to the mission and vision of the
24 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system through:

- 25 • providing educational access and opportunity throughout northwest Minnesota and online,
- 26 • offering an array of technical and liberal arts programs and courses that prepare individuals
27 for careers and/or continuing education, enhance the quality of life, and contribute to the
28 economic health of our region,
- 29 • continuous improvement practices that assure high quality in programs and services and
30 assist students to succeed, and
- 31 • growing enrollment and revenue from entrepreneurial and philanthropic sources to assure
32 institutional fiscal health and program sustainability.

33
34 The *array of awards* offered by Northland Community and Technical College, validated by the
35 Higher Learning Commission, include Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Applied Science
36 (AAS), Associate in Science (AS), Diplomas and Certificates.

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38

1 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

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3 The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves
4 the request by Northland Community and Technical College to reaffirm its vision, mission,
5 purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

6

7 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

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9 The Board of Trustees approves the request by Northland Community and Technical College to
10 reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

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