

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

BOARD ACTION

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM PRESIDENT OF
SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

1 **BACKGROUND**

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3 Chancellor McCormick initiated the process to hire an interim president of Southwest Minnesota State
4 University upon the announcement of President David Danahar's retirement. An interim president is
5 being appointed because a study is underway to identify the key higher education programs and services
6 needed by the region now and in the future. The study also will explore administrative and
7 organizational structures, including the current institutional configuration, and other approaches that
8 could include consolidation, administrative alignment or other programmatic and financial
9 opportunities to enhance or sustain programs and services in the region.

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11 **Chancellor's Review Process**

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13 Chancellor McCormick sought nominations and expressions of interest from the board, presidents,
14 system office staff and other individuals within and outside the system. Candidates were reviewed for
15 qualifications and a selection was made.

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17 Dr. Ronald A. Wood, who retired as president of Minnesota West Community and Technical College in
18 2008 after serving for ten years, has been serving as an alderman for the city of Worthington since
19 2008. Previously, he was the chief academic officer at Laramie County Community College in
20 Wyoming and held various positions at Frederick Community College in Maryland, including special
21 assistant to the dean of instruction, professor of economics, associate dean in the science and
22 technology division, acting dean of instruction and division chairperson in the math, physical and social
23 sciences. He also was mathematical statistician at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

24
25 He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from Western Maryland College, master's
26 degree in economics from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Ph.D. in consumer economics
27 from the University of Maryland.

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29 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

30 The Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopts the following motion.

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32 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

33 The Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor McCormick, appoints Ronald A.
34 Wood as the interim president for Southwest Minnesota State University, effective on July 1,
35 2011, subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The Board authorizes the
36 Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair of the Board and Chair of the Human Resources

1 Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and
2 conditions of the Personnel Plan for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Administrators.

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4 *Date of Presentation to the Board:* April 20, 2011

5 *Date of Board Action:* April 20, 2011

6 *Date of Approval:* April 20, 2011

Ronald A. Wood, Ph.D.

Summary

Experienced President of a multi-campus comprehensive community college. Exceptional analytical, strategic planning and fiscal skills. Proven track record of enrollment management and marketing. Entrepreneurial vision in meeting the dynamic demands of the Information Technology users. Experienced at working one-on-one or in groups with community groups, business leaders, board members and legislators. Experienced facilities planner. Experienced coordinator of grants and fund raising activities. Special ability to coordinate complex projects and gain the cooperation of diverse groups through a participatory process.

Highlights of Qualifications

- Forty years of experience as a faculty member and senior administrator within a college environment.
- Thirty years of budget preparation, facilities planning and enrollment management experience.
- Experienced leader of and presenter to public and private boards.
- Active in regional and local professional organizations.
- Skilled in developing and implementing undergraduate liberal arts and science curricula.
- Catalyst for innovative change.
- Sensitive to the needs of individuals with diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to generate external support for college and university programs.

Political Position

Alderman, Ward 1
City of Worthington, MN 56187
2008 – Current
Responsibilities:

One of five council members responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission and strategic direction of the City
- Setting the annual operating and capital budget
- Establishing the property tax levy to support the annual operating and capital budget
- General oversight of a City of 12,000 people classified as the second most diverse in the state of Minnesota.

Employment History

Minnesota West Community and Technical College

Granite Falls, MN 56241

1998-2008

President

Responsibilities:

Responsible for the leadership and management of a five campus comprehensive community college serving over 5,000 credit students and close to 14,500 non-credit students, a 20 million dollar annual budget, and a 540,000 square foot physical plant. The service area covers 19 counties in southwest Minnesota comprising over 15% of the Minnesota land mass.

Major Accomplishments at Minnesota West and with the MnSCU system:

- Successfully lead the merger of five diverse campuses to attain the Colleges first full ten year NCA accreditation.
- State leader in implementing on-line courses. Currently the College teaches over 36% of its courses on-line.
- First College to implement VOIP between its five campuses.
- Implemented the first Renewable Energy program in Minnesota. Received several Federal earmarks and state grants. Strong partnership established with MSU Mankato. Established publishing enterprise to support text book needs for the College, other Colleges and Ethanol Plants.
- Implemented first Wind Energy program in Minnesota. Solicited and received numerous grants and in-kind funds to support program start-up.
- Established Customized Training Site in Marshall with an emphasis on public safety in a state funded facility.
- Established an educational site in Fairmont in partnership with the City of Fairmont and the Office of the Chancellor.
- Established a medical learning site in Luverne in partnership with Sanford Health and the City of Worthington. Today there are four medical and health related programs established with full enrollments in what was the Luverne General Hospital. The partnership included over \$400,000 of contributions from the City of Luverne and Sanford Health.
- Established a partnership between ISD 518, the City of Worthington, the Worthington Regional Economic Development Corp. and Prairie Holdings to establish a Biotech Lab Training program. To date have assisted or wrote grants worth over \$6 million. In April the City of Worthington will break ground on a Testing and Training Center & Incubator.
- Negotiated and formed partnership with City of Pipestone and Suzlon to establish a Wind Turbine blade plant. The College provided the training.
- Established the College's first Diversity Director to work with students of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Worthington is the second most diverse community in Minnesota and the southwest region has several Native American Tribal Councils.
- Combined several College foundations into one foundation.
- Proposed, designed, worked with legislators, and completed a major renovation and new construction project on the Worthington campus.

- Worked well in a union setting being selected twice to be one of administrators on the MnSCU negotiating team with the MSCF union.
- Left the College in 2008 in a state of good morale and sound financial condition (\$2.5 million fund balance and reserve).

Laramie County Community College
Cheyenne, WY 82007

1994-1998

Chief Academic Officer

Responsibilities:

Academic content areas; academic support areas including Library, Student Computer Center, and Student Success System; Albany County Campus; academic and administrative computing; grants; and Community Outreach including outreach sites, Continuing Education/Community Services, the Business Enterprise Center, and the Job Skills and Education Center.

Frederick Community College
Frederick, MD 21702

1992-94

Special Assistant to the Dean of Instruction
Professor of Economics

1990-92

Associate Dean
Science and Technology Division

1989-90

Acting Dean of Instruction

1987-89

Associate Dean
Science and Technology Division

1984-87

Division Chairperson, Math, Physical
and Social Sciences

1980-84

Division Chairperson, Social Sciences

1972-80

Professor of Economics

Hood College, Frederick, MD
1976-94

Adjunct graduate and undergraduate lecturer

USDA, SRS, Washington, D.C.
1970-72

Mathematical Statistician

St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
1968-70

Half-time statistics instructor

Washington University, St. Louis, MO
1968-70

Adjunct Instructor

Education

Ph.D.	Consumer Economics (Honors 4.0) Dissertation Title	University of Maryland College Park, MD (1989) “The Role of Habit in Cigarette Consumption”
MA	Economics (Economic Fellowship)	Washington University St. Louis, MO (1970)
BA	Mathematics/Economics (Economic Honors)	Western Maryland College Westminster, MD (1968)

Current & Recent Associations/Organizations

American Association of Community Colleges (2008)
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (2008)
Council of North Central Two Year Colleges (2008)
Granite Falls Kiwanis (2006)
Minnesota League of Cities (Current)
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (Current)
American Public Power Association (Current)
Minnesota State High School League (Current)
Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce (Current)

Current & Recent Boards and Councils

Economic Develop Authority of Granite Falls (2006) --- Board of Directors
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board --- Member of Management Bargaining
Team with MSCF (2006)
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Council of Presidents (2008)
Southwest/West Central Higher Education Organization for Telecommunications
Board of Directors (Chair) (2008)
Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative --- Advisory Board (2008)
Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council ---- Board of Directors (2009)
Worthington Region Economic Development Corp. --- Chair, Board of Directors (2009)
Worthington Water and Light Commission --- (Current)
Worthington Testing and Training Center Board ---- (Current)
Nobles County Law Enforcement Center Joint Powers Board ---- (Current)
Housing and Rehabilitation Authority --- (Current)

Honors, Publications and Presentations

Phi Kappa Phi	University of Maryland
Omicron Nu	University of Maryland
Omicron Delta Epsilon	Western Maryland College

- Wood, R. (1997). "Renewing the Vision: Past Perspectives and Future Imperatives for Distributed Teaching Faculty." Presentation: Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications, Ninth Annual Meeting.
- Wood, R. and Ferranto, M. (1996). "Managing Instructional Programs: Insuring Continuous Improvement During Periods of Budget Downsizing." Presentation: AIR National Conference.
- Brinberg, D. and Wood R. (1983). "Resource Exchange Theory, Analysis of Consumer Behavior." Journal of Consumer Research, 10 (3), 330-338.
- Wood, R. (1974) (1978). "Economic Impact of a College on a Community." Frederick Community College Publication.
- Wood, R. (1972). "Grain Sorghum: A Preliminary Forecast Model." USDA Publication.
- Wood, R. (1972). "Optimum Plot Size for Winter Wheat." USDA Publication.
- Wood, R. (1972) "A Study of the Sampling and Estimating Procedures for California Cling Peaches." USDA Publication.
- Wood, R. (1971) "A Study of the Characteristics of the Pecan Tree for Use in Objective Yield Forecasts." USDA Publication.