

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: June 21, 2011

Agenda Item: Mission Approval: Inver Hills Community 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 at least once every five years.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Tim Wynes, President, Inver Hills Community College

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The proposed mission, vision, and purposes presented by Inver Hills Community College were revised during a recent strategic planning process. The 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
ACTION ITEM**

**MISSION APPROVAL:
INVER HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

1 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
2

3 The vision, mission and goals of Inver Hills Community College meet the criteria identified in
4 Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and Approval of
5 College and University Mission and Vision Statements. The college is requesting approval of its
6 new mission under the new Board policy requirement that colleges and universities seek Board
7 approval at least once every five years.
8

9 **Inver Hills Community College’s proposed vision, mission, purposes, and awards are:**
10

11 **Vision:** We will be an innovator in education, creating a vigorous intellectual environment for
12 emerging leaders, scholars, and professionals. Providing an affordable gateway into
13 the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, we will enrich individual lives
14 and support our diverse communities, locally and globally.
15

16 **Mission:** Dedicated to the power and promise of education, we inspire students, build careers
17 and strengthen communities.
18

19 **Purposes:**

- 20 • To further the knowledge and expertise of faculty and staff
21 • To ensure that students succeed and can continue their personal and professional
22 goals
23 • To provide an exceptional educational and community experience to students
24 • To serve our local communities and the citizens of Minnesota
25 • To develop and model best practices in teaching
26 • To provide a supportive, welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for a
27 diverse group of students
28

29 **Awards:** Associate in Arts, Associate in Fine Arts, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in
30 Science, diplomas, and certificates
31

32 **BACKGROUND**
33

34 Inver Hills Community College just celebrated its fortieth year serving students and
35 communities. In 2010, 9,700 credit students (4,284 FYE) were enrolled at the college. Besides
36 providing career and transfer credit programming, the college has a strong outreach to local
37 business and a history of helping to develop professionals with 6,218 students participating in

1 non-credit professional education classes. The college is responsive to student needs, providing
2 flexible scheduling and services, including offering 24% of its credits online with additional
3 courses offered through hybrid delivery, scheduling courses evenings and Saturdays, and
4 offering accelerated courses. The college is sensitive to the diversity of its student body and
5 their unique learning styles and support needs. Twenty-one percent of the student body is first
6 generation students (neither parent attended any college) and 21% are students of color. The
7 college has focused on efforts geared toward reaching students who may have never considered
8 college. For example, as part of a \$1.2 million MnSCU Access and Opportunity grant, the
9 college is working with K-12 educators throughout the East Metro to help introduce students to
10 higher education.

11
12 Inver Hills is recognized regionally and nationally for its quality programming. Some examples
13 are: the college's adult education programming was recognized for its innovative approaches to
14 prior learning assessment leading to the college being given a lead role in the MnSCU Lumina
15 RAPID grant and in the CAEL-led FIPSE grant; faculty and staff members published articles on
16 the college's approach to Learning Communities as a retention and success strategy for students;
17 online instructors were recognized by the national Information Technology Council; and the
18 college is a partner in three MnSCU Centers of Excellence: Advance IT Minnesota, Access and
19 Opportunity, and HealthForce Minnesota.

20
21 Inver Hills is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central
22 Association. The college follows the Academic Quality Important Program (AQIP) pathway for
23 accreditation which requires the institution to remain in a state of continuous self-evaluation and
24 improvement. In addition, the college has a number of programs that are nationally
25 accredited/approved: Nursing by the National League for Nursing Accrediting (NLNA);
26 Emergency Medical Services by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education
27 Programs (CAAHEP); Paralegal by the American Bar Association (ABA); and Business and
28 Accounting by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

29 30 **OVERVIEW OF MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES**

31
32 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Inver Hills Community College meet the criteria
33 identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4: Review and
34 Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements. As required by procedure,
35 the institution must:

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

45 Additionally, the institution's mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional
46 accreditation requirements.

1 **REVIEW OF INVER HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S MISSION, VISION AND**
2 **PURPOSES/GOALS**

3
4 **The mission, vision, and purposes respond to the system procedure.** Inver Hills Community
5 College’s vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and regional
6 accreditation requirements. The College mission, vision, and purposes demonstrate alignment
7 with the system mission and vision. The mission, vision, and purposes meet the definitions
8 provided in Policy 3.24 by identifying the purpose of the college to “inspire students, build
9 careers and strengthen communities” and the constituents as students, communities, MnSCU,
10 and the people of Minnesota. The mission and vision also set inspirational goals of innovation, a
11 vigorous intellectual environment, and an accessible gateway to enriched lives and communities.
12

13 The proposed *Mission*, “Dedicated to the power and promise of education, we inspire students,
14 build careers and strengthen communities,” builds on the current mission statement of Inver Hills
15 as “a comprehensive community college committed to continuously improving student
16 understanding and capabilities that help students lead purposeful lives, contribute to a vital social
17 and economic community, and pursue lifelong learning.” The college notes that the new mission
18 statement mines the information into the essence of its existence. The current mission statement
19 contains language that is somewhat institutional and dated; the new statement is intended to be
20 inspirational, yet also reflect the impetus, goals and educational direction for the college.
21

22 The mission acknowledges that the college serves a diverse group of students who want to
23 benefit from the promise of education, build careers, and be productive community members
24 serving communities that will be stronger for the leadership that emerges out of the college. The
25 college strives for outcomes that include a strong graduation rate, student success, continuing
26 AQIP accreditation, and a vigorous presence in local communities. The college exists as a
27 gateway to system four-year institutions, to service to the community, and to the power of
28 education for all. The college recognizes its legislatively defined role as part of the Minnesota
29 State Colleges and Universities system as well as its role in preparing students for transfer and
30 for the workforce. Throughout its mission, vision, and purposes, the college acknowledges its
31 obligations and responsibilities to the people of Minnesota who provide funding.
32

33 Combined with the vision and purposes, the college’s mission articulates a commitment to the
34 higher education needs of the people of Minnesota. The college recognizes that as more students
35 are using community colleges as a path to four-year institutions, it will be an even more
36 important and effective partner in higher education in Minnesota with a goal to serve students as
37 creatively as possible.
38

39 The *Vision*, “We will be an innovator in education, creating a vigorous intellectual environment
40 for emerging leaders, scholars, and professionals. Providing an affordable gateway into the
41 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, we will enrich individual lives and support
42 our diverse communities, locally and globally,” acknowledges its role as a member of Minnesota
43 State Colleges and Universities system; the mission, vision, and purposes each articulate a
44 commitment to helping students fulfill their personal and professional goals; the vision
45 recognizes the college’s responsibility to support “our diverse communities;” the vision aspires
46 to “an affordable gateway;” the mission, vision, and goals each express commitment to students’

1 strong professional growth and strong and thriving communities; and the mission, vision, and
2 goals express the college’s dedication to providing innovation, promise, and “a vigorous
3 intellectual environment” for learning where all students are given support to succeed.
4

5 The **Purposes** of Inver Hills Community College are:

- 6 • To further the knowledge and expertise of faculty and staff
- 7 • To ensure that students succeed and can continue their personal and professional goals.
- 8 • To provide an exceptional educational and community experience to students
- 9 • To serve our local communities and the citizens of Minnesota
- 10 • To develop and model best practices in teaching
- 11 • To provide a supportive, welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for a
12 diverse group of students

13
14 The mission, vision, and purposes directly acknowledge the college’s responsibilities to provide
15 access, opportunity, and success; quality programs and services; help for students to achieve
16 goals and to enrich communities for an economically competitive state; and education that is
17 accessible and affordable through institutional viability. This acknowledgement lays the
18 foundation for evaluation in each of these areas through the Board of Trustees Accountability
19 Dashboard and holds the institution accountable for meeting expected outcomes both at the
20 system and accrediting body level. As an AQIP institution, the college is particularly sensitive to
21 outcomes/results and measures. This awareness encourages the college to align its purposes and
22 goals with the strategic directions, goals, and Accountability Dashboard of the Minnesota State
23 Colleges and Universities system. The college also gauges its effectiveness by using comparative
24 data and targets. The college strives to be more fully equipped to serve students based on
25 empirical data. The college feels the new mission, vision, and purposes set stretch targets for its
26 growth and improvement and provide further motivation to be a “best practice” institution. The
27 quality of instruction, the participation in continuous quality improvement through AQIP, and
28 the ability to accommodate a widely diverse student population make it unique.
29

30 The mission, vision, and purposes provide a launching point for the college’s achievement of the
31 systems’s strategic directions and goals:

- 32 • ***Increase access, opportunity and success.***

33 First the college has focused the mission on its dedication to the “power and promise of
34 education.” This commitment drives the college to work at ways to “provide a supportive,
35 welcoming . . . environment” and to “ensure that students succeed.” Further, the college
36 recognizes both students and communities are diverse with diverse needs and learning styles.

- 37 • ***Achieve high-quality learning through a commitment to academic excellence and
38 accountability.***

39 Excellence in teaching and learning and the intellectual environment of the college are
40 threaded through the mission, vision, and purposes. The college strives to be an effective
41 “innovator,” to make the college a “vigorous intellectual environment,” to “provide an
42 exceptional educational and community experience,” and “model best practices in teaching.”
43 In addition, it sets high expectations for the work of students, faculty, and staff by having as
44 goals “inspired students,” “strengthen[ed] communities,” and “enrich[ed] individual lives.”

- 1 • ***Provide learning opportunities, programs and services to enhance the global economic***
2 *competitiveness of the state, its regions and its people.*
3 The college demonstrates its important role in enhancing the economic competitiveness of its
4 constituents. The mission speaks to building careers, while the vision sees the college’s role
5 in creating leaders and professionals, both locally and globally. The college as a community
6 college is committed to serving local communities and the citizens of Minnesota.
- 7 • ***Innovate to meet current and future educational needs.***
8 The vision statement highlights the college’s commitment to innovation. The furthering of
9 the knowledge and expertise of faculty and staff and the assertion that the college will
10 “develop and model best practices in teaching” underscores the college’s willingness to
11 accept change to better meet needs of students and its community.
- 12 • ***Sustain financial viability during changing economic and market conditions.***
13 The word “affordable” keeps the institution awake to the challenges of viability. The college
14 is aware of the tension that exists between “an exceptional educational and community
15 experience” and “affordable gateway.” The college meets this challenge through “best
16 practices,” innovation, and its dedication “to the power and promise of education.”
17

18 The ***awards*** offered by Inver Hills Community College include Associate in Arts, Associate in
19 Fine Arts, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Science, Diplomas, and Certificates
20

21 **Consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders**

22 The college went through a year-long planning process, led by a team of students, faculty, staff,
23 and administrators who serve on its Institutional Effectiveness Council. There was participation
24 from all members of the college community and attention to stakeholders and community
25 partners. Developing new Mission, Vision and Values statements required reflection on the
26 college’s core functions, who the college serves, what an ideal institution should look like and
27 which fundamental Values fuel the college’s efforts. The team leading this project did extensive
28 research on mission and vision statements, ranging from an exploration of college statements to
29 corporate and nonprofit mission and vision statements. Initially, the team began with longer
30 statements but research showed that concise statements are the most memorable. Inver Hills’
31 new Mission, Vision and Values statements went through dozens of drafts until the prose was
32 pared to the college’s central functions and ideals. Once formed, the statements were sent to
33 the entire college community for feedback. Several faculty and staff members offered further,
34 helpful observations and ideas, allowing the team to refine the work one more time.
35

36 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

37
38 The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve
39 the vision, mission, purposes and awards of Inver Hills Community College as listed in the
40 executive summary.
41

42 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

43
44 The Board of Trustees approves the vision, mission, purposes and awards of Inver Hills
45 Community College as listed in the executive summary.