

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: May 21, 2014

Title: Riverland Community College – Approval of College Mission Statement

Purpose (check one):

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|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed New Policy or Amendment to Existing Policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approvals Required by Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Approvals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring / Compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | |

Brief Description:

The mission of Riverland Community College is being presented for Board approval. The mission and vision meet the criteria in Board Policy 3.24 Institution Type and Mission, and System Mission, Part 4: Approval of College or University Mission Statements.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Adenuga Atewologun, President, Riverland Community College
John O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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

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| BOARD ACTION ITEM |
| RIVERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE – APPROVAL OF COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT |

BACKGROUND

The mission of Riverland Community College is being presented for Board approval. The mission and vision meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 Institution Type and Mission, and System Mission, Part 4: Approval of College or University Mission Statements.

Current Mission: Riverland is a regional comprehensive community college inspiring learning for living through a personalized educational environment.

Proposed Mission: Riverland Community College inspires personal success through education.

The revised mission recognizes the reach of Riverland’s program offerings beyond the region especially in an era of a rapidly changing landscape of education, including the preponderance of e-learning and online instruction since 2005 when the Board of Trustees approved the old mission. The new Riverland Community College mission supports the mission of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Current Vision: Riverland will be a regional leader in liberal arts and career-technical higher education and an essential link to economic and social vitality. Riverland will be recognized for excellence in learning through innovation, responsiveness, resourcefulness, and collaboration.

Proposed Vision: Achieve “Best in Class” status in programs through excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

The revised vision is succinct, inspirational, and aspirational. It suggests a process to attain excellence. It reiterates a goal to benchmark outcomes to institutions both internal and external to MnSCU. It provides a strong impetus to strive for excellence intentionally. It recognizes the college’s determination to exceed stakeholders’ expectations.

The college vision and mission respond to the following elements in system procedure:

1. *The alignment of the proposed mission with the system mission and statewide needs -*
The revised mission and vision relies on and aligns with the system strategic framework and *Charting the Future* report:
 - Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans.
 - Be the partner of choice to meet Minnesota’s workforce and community needs.
 - Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value/most affordable higher education option.

The proposed mission describes in the most basic and succinct terms, the purpose of Riverland Community College to meet the needs of individual students by offering a comprehensive array of general education courses and programs in liberal arts and sciences, career and technical education, and continuing education.

The college recognizes the need to develop the whole person while preparing each student for a rewarding and fulfilling career. We prepare students for careers through effective partnerships with businesses and industries and through guidance and counseling for students to select a career path that meets the workforce needs of our region and beyond.

2. *The extent to which the college or university will meet expectations of statute and how it relates to other institutions of higher education -*

The proposed revision does not change the extent to which the college will meet expectations of statute or how the college relates to other institutions of higher education. Riverland will remain a comprehensive community college governed by statutes and laws of its accreditation agency, and the policies of the MnSCU Board of Trustees.

3. *The array of awards it offers -*

The proposed revision does not change the array of awards the college offers. It reinforces the commitment to be more nimble and responsive as the reach of the college's programs extends beyond the region and as the needs of our constituents change with technology.

4. *The compliance of the college or university mission with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements -*

Riverland will remain a comprehensive community college governed by statutes and regulations of its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC-NCA.) The new Riverland Community College mission provides a strong foundation for evaluation and accountability and regional accreditation through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) pathway.

5. *The consultation with faculty, students, employers, and other essential stakeholders -*

Riverland Community College arrived at the new mission and vision statements after consultation and deliberation with internal and external stakeholders beginning in Spring, 2013 with a survey addressing reaffirmation of the current mission, vision, and values. Riverland Community College strategic planning sessions were held beginning in November 2013, with campus representation from faculty, staff, and administration, and joined by community members from the Riverland Foundation Board. Further feedback was gained through community presentations, college town hall meetings, campus conversations, student focus groups, and Faculty Shared Governance discussions, which took place January through March 2014.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

Upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the mission of Riverland Community College.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the mission of Riverland Community College.