

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

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: October 22, 2014

Title: Mesabi Range College Mission Statement

Purpose (check one):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <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 Mesabi Range 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):

Carol Helland, Provost, Mesabi Range College

John O'Brien, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

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

BOARD ACTION ITEM

APPROVAL OF MESABI RANGE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

The mission of Mesabi Range 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: Mesabi Range College provides high quality education resulting in rewarding employment, lifelong learning, and the enriched lives of our students and community.

Proposed Mission: Mesabi Range College is a progressive, student-focused institution, located in the heart of northeastern Minnesota, preparing diverse learners for fulfilling careers, college transfer, and lives of intellectual curiosity and discovery.

The revisions to the mission are primarily driven by the evolution of the college from the institution it was in 1999, when the current mission statement was approved by the MnSCU Board, to the institution it is today. The most significant evolutionary change is that Mesabi Range College currently serves other community and technical colleges, state universities, private colleges, and other institutions of higher education. Such expanded outreach has prompted a revision of the college's mission, as well as the vision to reflect a more comprehensive statement regarding its commitment to a greater diversity of learners and communities.

Vision: Mesabi Range College will lead northeastern Minnesota in accessible, innovative, and high-quality educational and training opportunities.

The Mesabi Range College vision is intended to be 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 and recognizes the college's determination to exceed stakeholders' expectations.

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

1. Alignment of proposed mission with the system mission and statewide needs -

The proposed mission of Mesabi Range College aligns with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities mission and statewide needs by addressing the "personal and career goals" of the system's mission statement by elevating the importance of "preparing diverse learners for fulfilling careers." Next, the "enhances quality of life" outcome is addressed in Mesabi Range College's statement as "preparing diverse learners for . . . lives

of intellectual curiosity and discovery.” The Guiding Principles, a subsection of Mesabi Range College’s mission and vision addresses “statewide needs” by recognizing the importance of partnerships as the college “fosters relationships with local, regional, and global business and education partners.”

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. Mesabi 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. *Array of awards it offers -*

Mesabi Range College offers transfer curricula, career programs, and developmental courses. Students can earn two-year Associate in Arts (A.A.) or Associate in Science (A.S.) transfer degrees. Mesabi Range College transfer curricula are designed to offer lower-division and pre-professional preparation for students who intend to transfer to a four-year college or university. Career programs are designed to prepare students for immediate employment in a career by providing technical skills that can be acquired in a one-year Certificate, one- or two-year Diploma, or two-year Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) programs.

4. *Compliance of the college mission with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements -*

Mesabi Range College will remain a comprehensive community college governed by state statutes and regulations of its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Mesabi Range College’s proposed mission statement affirms a commitment to putting learners and learning first in all matters concerning the operation of the College. Mesabi Range College operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students. Mesabi Range College articulates its mission as a learning community through its vision and guiding principles. These principles and outcomes are aligned with the Higher Learning Commission and realized through its everyday practices.

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

The process for reviewing the Mesabi Range College mission, vision, and guiding principles included the following elements:

- Mission Revision Process was presented to faculty at Faculty Professional Development Day August 2013.
- Mission Revision Process (PowerPoint presentation) sent to staff.
- Critical mission-related concepts, ideas, and wording were elicited from college constituencies (college advisory committee, college foundation, college alumni association, assessment team, college faculty, staff, and students).
- College Assessment Team undertook the work of organizing and categorizing the material gathered in order to eliminate redundancies and create a manageable list.
- College constituencies were asked to review the list for omissions.

- College constituencies were then asked to rank those concepts and ideas from most important to the college to least important.
- A volunteer team of faculty took those key concepts and words and drafted a mission statement.
- The draft mission statement was sent out to all college constituencies for feedback and response.
- Presentation of draft mission statement made to faculty association along with invitation to provide feedback to the writing team.
- The writing team met again to review the feedback and consider revisions based upon that feedback.
- The team fashioned a final draft of the mission, which (as a result of feedback) became the proposed mission, vision, and guiding principles.
- Final draft of the proposed mission was sent to college constituencies (via email) for approval.
- Final draft of proposed mission was approved unanimously April 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 Mesabi Range College.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the mission of Mesabi Range College.