

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: May 19, 2015

Title: Centers of Excellence

Purpose (check one):

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

Brief Description:

MnSCU's Centers of Excellence promote connectivity between Minnesota industry and the state's colleges and universities. Center programs help students with career exploration, learn on the latest technologies, and participate in work-based experiences. Working with faculty and partner organizations, the Centers support teaching and learning, curriculum development and help elevate industry's need for innovation in educational programs. Centers support the development of talented and educated individuals for Minnesota's leading industries in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing and engineering, agriculture, energy, and transportation.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Mary Rothchild, Senior System Director, Workforce Development
Karen White, Director, 360 Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence
Bruce Lindberg, Director, AdvanceIT Minnesota
Valerie DeFor, Director, HealthForce Minnesota
Larry Lundblad, President, Central Lakes College

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INFORMATION ITEM
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

BACKGROUND

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities’ Centers of Excellence were created in 2005 as an initiative of the Governor and enacted by the legislature per Minnesota Session Law 2005, Chapter 107, Article 2, Section 31, M.S.136F.31 with initial funding of \$5 million per year for four years.

Centers of Excellence champion and orchestrate targeted talent development efforts to respond to specific employer needs within strategic industry sectors of the Minnesota economy.

Strategic Objectives

1. Expand career awareness and interest among middle and high school students, with special emphasis on diverse populations
2. Increase enrollment in educational programs that prepare students for targeted careers
3. Enhance alignment of curriculum and programs with workplace expectations and requirements
4. Improve Minnesota employers’ access to future talent

Strategies

1. Build partnerships and alliances with industry employers, associations and like-minded organizations to improve coordination of efforts and leverage resources
2. Facilitate collective action among MnSCU faculty and staff to enhance the scale and effectiveness of addressing workforce and education needs
3. Provide opportunities for students, educators and employers to build relationships with one another to increase communication, understanding and collaboration
4. Serve as an advocate and convener for industry stakeholders to explore new ideas, address concerns and promote innovative programs

Common or typical approaches

Expanding career awareness, interest and readiness

- “Career camps” sponsored in conjunction with industry partners that engage students in active learning, with expert faculty and practicing professionals

- Secondary school curricular support to introduce students through active learning strategies to the nature of work in a particular field
- Connecting students with employers and faculty through events and activities

MnSCU collaboration and responsiveness

- Convene faculty and other stakeholders to create new curricula (courses and programs) that address specific workplace talent needs
- Lead collaboration on grants to help fund new programs
- Support research and data gathering on trends that address the needs of Minnesotans

The centers and their websites are:

AdvanceIT Minnesota	www.advanceitmn.org
AgCentric	www.agcentric.org
HealthForce Minnesota	www.healthforceminnesota.org
Mn Center for Engineering and Manufacturing	http://cset.mnsu.edu/mnceme/
Minnesota Energy Center	www.minnesotaenergycareers.com
Minnesota Transportation Center	www.minntran.org
Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture	www.centerofagriculture.org
360 Manufacturing and Applied Engineering	www.360mn.org
ATE Regional Center of Excellence	