

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2010

Agenda Item: Mission Approvals: Dakota County Technical 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 of Trustees at least once every five years.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Kelly Murtaugh, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dakota County Technical College

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The vision, mission and purposes presented by Dakota County Technical College reaffirm the institutional mission approved by the Board of Trustees in 1998. The reaffirmed 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**

BOARD ACTION

Mission Approvals: Dakota County Technical College

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision, mission and goals of Dakota County Technical College 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. The college is reaffirming its mission (previously approved by the Board of Trustees in June 1998) under the new Board policy requirement that colleges and universities seek Board approval at least once every five years.

Dakota County Technical College’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:

Vision: Dakota County Technical College will be recognized as a leader in providing quality technical and general education needed for employment in an ever-changing work environment.

Mission: The mission of Dakota County Technical College is to provide collegiate-level education for employment that will empower individuals to enhance their opportunities for career advancement and success in a global economy.

Purposes:

Purpose 1 Dakota County Technical College will attract and support more students and employees from varied backgrounds by sustaining a welcoming, supportive and culturally diverse environment conducive to personal and professional growth.

Purpose 2 Dakota County Technical College will expand its role in meeting the educational and training needs of students and businesses at the local, regional and national levels through innovative models of instructional delivery.

Purpose 3 Dakota County Technical College will increase opportunities for its students and employees to participate in service-learning, sustainability and civic engagement activities at the local, regional, national and global levels.

Purpose 4 Dakota County Technical College will enhance its educational and training options in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines for both traditional students and the incumbent workforce.

Purpose 5 Dakota County Technical College will reduce its reliance on traditional revenue sources through the continued application of innovative financial and fundraising strategies.

1 **Array of Awards:** Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees,
2 Occupational Diplomas, and Certificates

3
4 **BACKGROUND**

5
6 Dakota County Technical College was founded in 1970. The college was accredited through the
7 North Central Association of Colleges and Schools until 1994 when the college entered
8 candidacy status for accreditation through what is now known as the Higher Learning
9 Commission. Full accreditation was awarded in 2001. Dakota County Technical College
10 participates in the Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ) accreditation process and
11 will be hosting the next reaccreditation visit April 18–20, 2011.

12
13 The college’s primary service region continues to be the Twin Cities south metropolitan area.
14 However, certain programs such as Biomedical Equipment Technology, General Motors
15 Automotive Service Educational, Individualized Studies, Wood Finishing Technology, Business
16 Entrepreneur, Railroad Conductor Technology, Energy Technical Specialist and Nanoscience
17 Technology draw students regionally and nationally.

18
19 **OVERVIEW OF MISSION, VISION AND PURPOSES**

20 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Dakota County Technical College meet the
21 criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and College and University Missions, Part 4:
22 Review and Approval of College and University Mission and Vision Statements.

23
24 As required by procedure, the institution must:

- 25 A. Describe how its mission and vision align with the requirements in Policy 3.24;
- 26 B. Articulate how the college or university will meet expectations of law, how it relates to
27 other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision, and purposes
28 support fulfillment of the system mission and vision;
- 29 C. Describe the array of awards it offers;
- 30 D. Include a statement that the college or university mission is compliant with statute,
31 policy, and regional accreditation requirements; and
- 32 E. Describe consultation with faculty and staff, students, employers and other essential
33 stakeholders.

34 Additionally, the institution’s mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional
35 accreditation requirements.

36
37 **REVIEW OF DAKOTA COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE’S MISSION, VISION AND**
38 **PURPOSES/GOALS**

39
40 **The mission, vision, and purposes respond to the system procedure.** Dakota County
41 Technical College’s vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and
42 regional accreditation requirements. The college mission, vision, and purposes demonstrate
43 alignment with the system mission and vision.

44
45 The college is reaffirming an institution mission that was approved by the Board in June, 1998.
46 When the college updated its strategic plan in 2006, internal and external campus constituencies

1 were surveyed and provided widespread support for the mission statement, vision statement, and
2 strategic goals. At that time, the mission statement was edited to reflect the mission in a clearer,
3 more concise manner.
4

5 The *mission* of Dakota County Technical College is “to provide collegiate-level education for
6 employment that will empower individuals to enhance their opportunities for career
7 advancement and success in a global economy.” Dakota County Technical College takes a
8 leadership role in providing innovative and practical technical education programs that give
9 statewide and regional workforces the skill range needed to not only compete, but also thrive in a
10 global economy. Its mission requires the college to provide both the hard and soft skills needed
11 for students and graduates to enter or reenter the workforce or advance their careers.
12

13 From 1970 to the present, Dakota County Technical College has delivered on its historical
14 motto: “Education for Employment.” As one of six stand-alone technical colleges in the system,
15 Dakota County Technical College remains committed to providing technical education that
16 prepares students and graduates for immediate and successful entry into local and regional
17 workforces dependent on the effective application of leading-edge technology.
18

19 With nearly 60 programs in six academic departments—Business & Information Systems,
20 Business and Management, Design, Health & Human Services, Technical Careers, and
21 Transportation Careers—the college offers opportunities for individuals with widely differing
22 interests and backgrounds, including:

- 23 • Students directly out of high school,
 - 24 • Individuals without a college education in the early phase of a career,
 - 25 • Individuals seeking a career change or transformation,
 - 26 • Individuals seeking an expanded training base, and
 - 27 • Displaced workers.
- 28

29 The general education and developmental learning programs provide a foundation for lifelong
30 learning as do the Continuing Education and Customized Training divisions. Dakota County
31 Technical College also stands out in its determined pursuit of strong partnerships with business
32 and industry, four-year colleges and universities, community organizations, and civic entities.
33 Through such enduring partnerships, the college has strengthened program curricula, provided
34 active learning environments, expanded faculty knowledge, and developed alternate funding
35 sources to support teaching and learning.
36

37 The College mission supports the system mission in the following ways:

- 38 • Dakota County Technical College is a distinct and collaborative institution with a clear
39 mission to prepare students for skilled, technical occupations that do not require a
40 baccalaureate degree.
- 41 • Dakota County Technical College offers technical, continuing education and customized
42 training programs that advance the career and personal goals of individual learners from
43 diverse backgrounds.

- Dakota County Technical College students and graduates provide the know-how and drive needed to promote vibrant economies statewide while enhancing the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

The *vision* for Dakota County Technical College states that “Dakota County Technical College will be recognized as a leader in providing quality technical and general education needed for employment in an ever-changing work environment.”

To achieve this vision, the college will deliver top-quality technical training in traditional fields while creating innovative, groundbreaking programs that support emerging workforce requirements in the region. As a modern, relevant technical college, Dakota County Technical College will continue to shine as a valuable higher education resource for students wishing to build the skill sets required for high-demand occupations in areas reliant on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The college expects to sustain a distinctive role by providing technical training through traditional programs, Continuing Education, and a Customized Training division with the capacity to swiftly benefit workforces in industries throughout the state and region. In response to changing workplaces, the college is positioned by design to launch new and timely programs that are both practical and advantageous to the industries they serve.

The college’s vision for itself is consistent with the vision for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system:

- Dakota County Technical College places a priority on delivering the most accessible and highest value technical education available not only in Minnesota, but also in the country as a whole.
- Dakota County Technical College focuses on providing students with the resources needed to pay for college and attain success in their coursework.
- With the understanding that delivery costs for technical training are higher than the cost of providing general education, Dakota County Technical College remains committed to offering the highest possible value to its students.

The stated *purposes* of Dakota County Technical College are:

Purpose 1 Dakota County Technical College will attract and support more students and employees from varied backgrounds by sustaining a welcoming, supportive and culturally diverse environment conducive to personal and professional growth.

Purpose 2 Dakota County Technical College will expand its role in meeting the educational and training needs of students and businesses at the local, regional and national levels through innovative models of instructional delivery.

Purpose 3 Dakota County Technical College will increase opportunities for its students and employees to participate in service-learning, sustainability and civic engagement activities at the local, regional, national and global levels.

1 **Purpose 4** Dakota County Technical College will enhance its educational and training options in
2 science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines for both traditional
3 students and the incumbent workforce.
4

5 **Purpose 5** Dakota County Technical College will reduce its reliance on traditional revenue
6 sources through the continued application of innovative financial and fundraising strategies.
7

8 Examples of how the Dakota County Technical College purposes are supporting the mission and
9 goals of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system include:

- 10 • Dakota County Technical College increases student access and promotes student success
11 through numerous scholarship opportunities, innovative academic programs and a range
12 of co-curricular programs, including a comprehensive Student Life department, student
13 organizations and clubs, and six NJCAA athletic programs.
- 14 • Dakota County Technical College support services include professional assistance in the
15 following areas: career, counseling, disability, financial aid, academic advising, tutoring,
16 multiculturalism and TRiO Student Support Services.
- 17 • Dakota County Technical College meets the personal and career goals of its students
18 through superb, relevant technical programs taught by highly qualified, industry-tested
19 faculty.
- 20 • Dakota County Technical College continues to augment the variety of its technical
21 programs through partnerships and collaborations with business and industry, community
22 organizations, civic entities, and four-year colleges and universities.
- 23 • Dakota County Technical College bolsters the area economy by responding to industry
24 needs through fast-track degree programs.
- 25 • Dakota County Technical College offers consistent proactive training geared to the short-
26 term needs of area businesses & companies.
- 27 • Dakota County Technical College delivers a broad variety of occupational programs
28 across six distinct departments while providing foundations in mathematics, English and
29 reading.
- 30 • Dakota County Technical College students are prepared to seek employment immediately
31 after completing their program—or they have the option to continue their education at a
32 four-year college or university.
- 33 • Ninety-two percent of surveyed employers report they would hire a Dakota County
34 Technical College student or graduate.
- 35 • Dakota County Technical College curricula connect accountability for student learning
36 outcomes to external academic and training authorities.
37

38 The *array of awards* offered by Dakota County Technical College includes Associate in Science
39 degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, Occupational Diplomas, and Certificates
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41

1 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

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3 The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approves
4 the request by Dakota County Technical College to reaffirm its vision, mission, purposes, and
5 array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

6

7 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

8

9 The Board of Trustees approves the request by Dakota County Technical College to reaffirm its
10 vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

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