Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:
Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval of Institutional Missions requires institutions to have new missions approved by the Board. As required by procedure, the institution must indicate:

a. How its mission and vision respond to the definitions in procedure 3.24.1.
b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment of the system mission and vision.
c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers.
d. How the new mission compares with the former mission.
e. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders.

Scheduled Presenter(s):
Kevin Kopischke, President, Alexandria Technical College
Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:
The proposed vision, mission and purposes of Alexandria Technical College meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval of Institutional Missions. The Higher Learning Commission requires accredited institutions to get approval from their governing boards for new missions.

Background Information:
The mission for Alexandria Technical College has been reviewed and found to meet all Board requirements for institutional missions.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed vision, mission and purposes of Alexandria Technical College meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval of Institutional Missions.

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

Vision: To be the premier institution of career preparation and comprehensive lifelong learning by:

- Continuing our heritage of caring.
- Engaging learners as full partners in their educational experiences.
- Valuing our highly trained, professional staff, relevant programs, and state-of-the-art technology.
- Implementing instructional innovation.
- Inspiring learners through an exemplary learning environment.
- Integrating our collaborative learning alliances and partnerships within and beyond Alexandria Technical College.
- Modeling a diverse culture of empowerment, creativity, and innovation as partners in a powerful learning organization.

Mission: Alexandria Technical College provides access to learning – for careers and for life!

Purposes: Alexandria Technical College’s purposes are to:

- Provide exceptional access, opportunity and personal and professional experiences for all learners.
- Provide innovative and visionary leadership statewide, nationally, and internationally within the dynamic marketplace of higher education.
- Champion career and technical education.
- Prepare its people and the organization for changing and dynamic times.
- Design and implement innovative, best-in-class partnerships that support economic development and civic engagement.
Array of Awards: Alexandria Technical College offers the Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science degrees as well as a variety of technical certificates and diplomas. The college also currently offers access to an AA degree and a Bachelor’s degree on campus through partnerships with state universities.

An institution’s mission, vision and purposes shall support achievement of the system mission and vision: Alexandria Technical College’s mission “provides access to learning – for careers and for life!” supports the system mission by focusing on career and personal skills for students to become productive and supportive members of the life and economies of their communities.

The mission supports the system strategic directions of access to learning through a quality education in support of the communities and surrounding region for Alexandria Technical College.

An institution’s mission, vision, and purposes shall provide a foundation for evaluation, accountability, and regional accreditation: Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission, and purposes provide a basis for evaluation, accountability, and regional accreditation.

Compliance: Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements.

BACKGROUND

Alexandria Technical College is a public two-year comprehensive technical college that was established in 1961. The college, located 140 miles north of Minneapolis in West-Central Minnesota, functions as an integral part of Alexandria and surrounding communities by providing education and support for students and industry.

ATC received its latest Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission spring of 2008 and is scheduled to have its next Reaffirmation in 2015. The college’s next System Appraisal under the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) is due in 2011.

Mission, Vision and Purposes Application Analysis

The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Alexandria Technical College meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval of System Institutional Missions.

As required by procedure, the institution must indicate:

a. How its mission and vision respond to the definitions in procedure 3.24.1.

b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment of the system mission and vision.

c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers.

d. How the new mission compares with the former mission.

e. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders.
Additionally, the institution’s mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements.

**Review of Alexandria Technical College’s Mission, Vision and Purposes**

Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission and purposes meet these requirements.

a. **The mission and vision respond to the definitions in the procedure:**

Alexandria Technical College’s mission “provides access to learning – for careers and for life!”, emphasizes that the college focuses on not only technical education for careers but also provides students with life skills and a full learning experience through the following approaches:

- Meet the personal and career goals of a wide range of individual learners by providing open access to both unique and in-demand programs through a variety of formats.
- Enhance the quality of life for all Minnesotans by providing leadership and advocacy.
- Sustain vibrant economies throughout the state by providing a skilled and educated workforce.

The mission for Alexandria Technical College is guided by a vision that reads “To be the premier institution of career preparation and comprehensive lifelong learning.”

Alexandria Technical College envisions a future in which:

- The college will maintain its culture of caring, empowerment, creativity, innovation, and integrity while meeting the emerging demands of students, industry, the system, and higher education.
- The college will evolve with changing demands of stakeholders. It will embrace technology that serves a new generation of students and adjust programming that engages students and embraces the needs of industry.
- ATC’s genuine concern for and empowerment of the individual as a learner or an employee has created a distinctively rich and innovative environment that is difficult to document but readily recognized.

b. **The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment of the system mission and vision:**

Alexandria Technical College is a regionally accredited institution of higher education that has consistently worked with many other colleges and universities, community organizations, and K-12 schools.

The Alexandria Technical College vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements. The Alexandria Technical College mission and vision supports the system mission and vision by enabling the people of Minnesota to succeed by
providing accessible, high quality, and high value education through innovative instruction, collaborative partnerships, relevant programs, highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art technology in an exemplary learning environment.

c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers:
Alexandria Technical College’s purposes are:

- Provide exceptional access, opportunity and personal and professional experiences for all learners.
- Provide innovative and visionary leadership statewide, nationally, and internationally within the dynamic marketplace of higher education.
- Champion career and technical education.
- Prepare its people and the organization for changing and dynamic times.
- Design and implement innovative, best-in-class partnerships that support economic development and civic engagement.

The purposes are designed to support Alexandria Technical College efforts to:

- Enable the people of Minnesota to succeed by providing the most accessible, highest value education in the nation by preparing its people and organization for changing and dynamic times through opportunity, leadership, partnership, and advocacy.
- Meet the personal and career goals of a wide range of individual learners by providing exceptional access, opportunity, and personal and professional experiences for all learners.
- Enhance the quality of life for all Minnesotans by providing innovative and visionary leadership statewide, nationally, and internationally.
- Sustain vibrant economies throughout the state by championing career and technical education and designing and implementing innovation, best-in-class partnerships that support economic development and civic responsibility.

Alexandria Technical College offers Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science degrees, as well as technical certificates and diplomas.

Alexandria Technical College’s primary niche is in serving as a comprehensive technical college that provides exemplary career and technical education. The college serves a broad range of learners with relevant programs, current facilities and technology, highly skilled staff and faculty, and collaborative partnerships. The cornerstone of ATC’s stability and success is its integral relationship with its surrounding communities.

d. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders:

In 2000 the college was accepted into the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) with the Higher Learning Commission. As part of its preparation, the college reviewed its mission statement, vision, and values. Administration, staff, faculty, students, and the community
engaged in multiple “campus conversations” throughout the process. Two key elements greatly impacted the college’s revised mission statement: 1) the college had experienced significant increase in general education, and 2) all participants called for “customer focused” language to align with the Continuous Improvement focus of the AQIP accreditation process.

The college began using its revised mission statement in 2002.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Alexandria Technical College vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the request by Alexandria Technical College to approve its vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive summary.