

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

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** November 18, 2008

**Agenda Item:** Alexandria Technical College Mission Approval

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 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.

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

**ALEXANDRIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION APPROVAL**

1 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
2

3 The proposed vision, mission and purposes of Alexandria Technical College meet the criteria  
4 identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval  
5 of Institutional Missions.  
6

7 **Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:**  
8

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

- 11 • Continuing our heritage of caring.
- 12 • Engaging learners as full partners in their educational experiences.
- 13 • Valuing our highly trained, professional staff, relevant programs, and state-of-the-art  
14 technology.
- 15 • Implementing instructional innovation.
- 16 • Inspiring learners through an exemplary learning environment.
- 17 • Integrating our collaborative learning alliances and partnerships within and beyond  
18 Alexandria Technical College.
- 19 • Modeling a diverse culture of empowerment, creativity, and innovation as partners in a  
20 powerful learning organization.  
21

22 **Mission:** Alexandria Technical College provides access to learning – for careers and for life!  
23

24 **Purposes:** Alexandria Technical College’s purposes are to:

- 25 • Provide exceptional access, opportunity and personal and professional experiences for all  
26 learners.
- 27 • Provide innovative and visionary leadership statewide, nationally, and internationally within  
28 the dynamic marketplace of higher education.
- 29 • Champion career and technical education.
- 30 • Prepare its people and the organization for changing and dynamic times.
- 31 • Design and implement innovative, best-in-class partnerships that support economic  
32 development and civic engagement.  
33

1 **Array of Awards:** Alexandria Technical College offers the Associate in Applied Science and  
2 Associate in Science degrees as well as a variety of technical certificates and diplomas. The  
3 college also currently offers access to an AA degree and a Bachelor’s degree on campus through  
4 partnerships with state universities.

5  
6 **An institution’s mission, vision and purposes shall support achievement of the system**  
7 **mission and vision:** Alexandria Technical College’s mission “provides access to learning – for  
8 careers and for life!” supports the system mission by focusing on career and personal skills for  
9 students to become productive and supportive members of the life and economies of their  
10 communities.

11  
12 The mission supports the system strategic directions of access to learning through a quality  
13 education in support of the communities and surrounding region for Alexandria Technical  
14 College.

15  
16 **An institution’s mission, vision, and purposes shall provide a foundation for evaluation,**  
17 **accountability, and regional accreditation:** Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission,  
18 and purposes provide a basis for evaluation, accountability, and regional accreditation.

19  
20 **Compliance:** Alexandria Technical College’s vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with  
21 statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements.

## 22 23 **BACKGROUND**

24  
25 Alexandria Technical College is a public two-year comprehensive technical college that was  
26 established in 1961. The college, located 140 miles north of Minneapolis in West-Central  
27 Minnesota, functions as an integral part of Alexandria and surrounding communities by  
28 providing education and support for students and industry.

29  
30 ATC received its latest Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission  
31 spring of 2008 and is scheduled to have its next Reaffirmation in 2015. The college’s next  
32 System Appraisal under the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) is due in 2011.

### 33 34 **Mission, Vision and Purposes Application Analysis**

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

38  
39 As required by procedure, the institution must indicate:

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

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

3  
4 **Review of Alexandria Technical College’s Mission, Vision and Purposes**

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

6  
7 a. The mission and vision respond to the definitions in the procedure:

8  
9 Alexandria Technical College’s mission “provides access to learning – for careers and for life!”,  
10 emphasizes that the college focuses on not only technical education for careers but also provides  
11 students with life skills and a full learning experience through the following approaches:

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

17  
18 The mission for Alexandria Technical College is guided by a vision that reads “To be the  
19 premier institution of career preparation and comprehensive lifelong learning.”

20  
21 Alexandria Technical College envisions a future in which:

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

31  
32 b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other  
33 institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment  
34 of the system mission and vision:

35  
36 Alexandria Technical College is a regionally accredited institution of higher education that has  
37 consistently worked with many other colleges and universities, community organizations, and K-  
38 12 schools.

39  
40 The Alexandria Technical College vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute,  
41 policy, and regional accreditation requirements. The Alexandria Technical College mission and  
42 vision supports the system mission and vision by enabling the people of Minnesota to succeed by

1 providing accessible, high quality, and high value education through innovative instruction,  
2 collaborative partnerships, relevant programs, highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art  
3 technology in an exemplary learning environment.

4  
5 c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers:

6 Alexandria Technical College's purposes are:

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

15  
16 The purposes are designed to support Alexandria Technical College efforts to:

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

27  
28 Alexandria Technical College offers Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science  
29 degrees, as well as technical certificates and diplomas.

30  
31 Alexandria Technical College's primary niche is in serving as a comprehensive technical college  
32 that provides exemplary career and technical education. The college serves a broad range of  
33 learners with relevant programs, current facilities and technology, highly skilled staff and  
34 faculty, and collaborative partnerships. The cornerstone of ATC's stability and success is its  
35 integral relationship with its surrounding communities.

36  
37 d. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders:

38  
39 In 2000 the college was accepted into the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) with  
40 the Higher Learning Commission. As part of its preparation, the college reviewed its mission  
41 statement, vision, and values. Administration, staff, faculty, students, and the community

1 engaged in multiple “campus conversations” throughout the process. Two key elements greatly  
2 impacted the college’s revised mission statement: 1) the college had experienced significant  
3 increase in general education, and 2) all participants called for “customer focused” language to  
4 align with the Continuous Improvement focus of the AQIP accreditation process.

5

6 The college began using its revised mission statement in 2002.

7

8 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

9

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

13

14 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

15

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