

**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: Minnesota West Community and Technical College Mission Approval

<input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Policy Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approvals Required by Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Approvals	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> 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):

Richard Shrubb, President, Minnesota West Community and 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 Minnesota West Community and Technical College meet the criteria identified in MnSCU Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval of MnSCU Institutional Missions. The Higher Learning Commission requires accredited institutions to get approval from their governing boards for new missions.

Background Information:

The mission for Minnesota West Community and 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***

**MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MISSION APPROVAL**

1 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
2

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

7 **Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s vision, mission, purposes and array**
8 **of awards are:**
9

10 **Vision:** Minnesota West Community & Technical College provides dynamic, responsive,
11 creative, and quality education to a diverse population in an ever-changing educational, business
12 and cultural environment.
13

14 **Mission:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College is dedicated to serving the varied
15 educational needs of our diverse populations in affordable, accessible and supportive settings.
16

17 **Purposes:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s purposes are to:

- 18 • Create learning opportunities for the citizens of southwest Minnesota that reflect the rapidly
19 changing demographics of the region.
- 20 • Create a campus atmosphere that embraces the needs of the students and encourages the
21 desire for learning both inside and outside of the classroom.
- 22 • Create a learning environment that broadens the capabilities of student, staff and faculty by
23 expanding its instructional horizon to include all possible learning tools.
- 24 • Collaborate with businesses and communities in southwest Minnesota to identify
25 opportunities for the enhancement of the economy and to provide coordinated political
26 action.
- 27 • Secure external funds to maintain high quality and affordable learning opportunities for the
28 citizens of southwest Minnesota.
29

30 **Array of Awards:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College offers the Associate in
31 Arts, Associate in Applied Science and Associate in Science degrees as well as a variety of
32 technical certificates and diplomas.
33
34

1
2 **An institution’s mission, vision and purposes shall support achievement of the system**

3 **mission and vision:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s mission “dedicated
4 to serving the varied educational needs of our diverse populations in affordable, accessible and
5 supportive settings” supports the system mission by focusing on affordable educational
6 opportunities provided in supportive and accessible settings.
7

8 **An institution’s mission, vision, and purposes shall provide a foundation for evaluation,**
9 **accountability, and regional accreditation:** Minnesota West Community and Technical
10 College’s vision, mission, and purposes provide a basis for evaluation, accountability, and
11 regional accreditation.
12

13 **Compliance:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s vision, mission, and
14 purposes are consistent with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements.
15

16 **BACKGROUND**
17

18 In 1945 the Minnesota State Legislature passed the Area Vocational Technical School Enabling
19 Law (Laws of Minnesota 1945, Chapter 304). This legislation marked the beginning of what
20 was to ultimately be called the Minnesota State Technical College System by 1989. The system
21 had several name changes during the 1980’s. In 1985 the area vocational technical institutes
22 were renamed technical colleges. In 1985 the system was configured into 34 campuses and 30
23 administrative units. Campuses at Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson and Pipestone were
24 consolidated to form one regional college. Southwestern Technical College was officially
25 formed on July 1, 1984. At that time the K-12 boards of Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson and
26 Pipestone entered into an agreement to establish a joint vocational-technical district. Soon after
27 the merger of the four technical colleges (STC) the consolidated colleges moved to credit-based
28 and course based delivery.
29

30 In 1991 the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation that merged Minnesota State Universities,
31 Minnesota Community Colleges and Minnesota Technical Colleges, effective in 1995. During
32 this period, the former Worthington Community Colleges (which was primarily a liberal arts
33 college) joined the four technical colleges.
34

35 **Campus Profiles:**
36

37 Canby – Located in Yellow Medicine County in a city of 1800 population. The campus was
38 founded in 1965. Programs currently (2008) being offered are: Accounting, Administrative
39 Assistant, Automotive, Dental Assistant, Diesel, Electrician, Liberal Arts, Medical Coding, Wind
40 Energy and Windsmith.
41

42 Granite Falls – The campus located in eastern Yellow Medicine County was founded also in
43 1965. It is located in Granite Falls with a population of 3,100. Current programs are:
44 Accounting, Administrative Assistant, Child Development, Collision Repair, Computer Support,
45 Computerizing Small Business Management, Fluid Power, Information Security, Liberal Arts,
46 Machine Tool, Manufacturing Engineering, Medical Administrative Secretary, Medical Coding,

1 Renewable Energy, Robotics, Small Business Management and Special Interest Vehicle
2 Technology.

3
4 Jackson – Established in 1964 the campus is in the city of Jackson, population of 3,500. Current
5 programs are: Accounting, Administrative Assistant, Automotive, Computer Engineering
6 Technology, Computer Support, Cosmetology, Electric Utility, Electrician, Emergency Medical
7 Services, Liberal Arts, Medical Administrative Secretary, Medical Coding, Networking
8 Specialist, Power Sports, and Powerline.

9
10 Pipestone – Was built on the site of the previous Pipestone Indian Vocational School. The
11 Indian School was founded in 1893. The current campus was founded in 1967. The population
12 of Pipestone is 4,500 in Pipestone County. Current programs are: Accounting, Administrative
13 Assistant, Carpentry I & II, Computerizing Small Business Management, Cosmetology, HVAC,
14 Lamb & Wool Management, Liberal Arts, Massage Therapy, Medical Administrative Secretary,
15 Medical Coding, Nursing Pathway – 1st Year and 2nd Year, Plumbing, Small Business
16 Management.

17
18 Worthington – The Junior College was founded in 1936. The population of Worthington is
19 12,000 and is in Nobles County. Worthington Community College merged with Southwestern
20 Technical College formally in 1997. Historically the Worthington campus offered liberal arts,
21 general education coursework and degrees.

22
23 Currently liberal arts courses, AA degrees are offered through ITV, onground and online courses
24 through all campuses and locations.

25
26 The Worthington campus offers technical programs in: Accounting, Administrative Assistant,
27 Agriculture, Biotechnology, Business, Computer Information, Law Enforcement, Liberal Arts,
28 Medical Assistant, Medical Lab Technician, Networking Specialist, Nursing Pathway 1st Year
29 and 2nd Year, Truck Driver and Web Development.

30
31 The four technical colleges and the liberal arts campus now form a comprehensive community
32 and technical college – **Minnesota West Community and Technical College.**

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

35 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Minnesota West Community and Technical
36 College meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part
37 2: Review and Approval 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 Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s Mission, Vision and**
5 **Purposes**

6 Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s vision, mission and purposes meet these
7 requirements.

8
9 a. The mission and vision respond to the definitions in the procedure:

10
11 Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s mission “dedicated to serving the varied
12 educational needs of our diverse populations in affordable, accessible and supportive settings”,
13 emphasizes that the college focuses on not only technical education for careers but also provides
14 students with life skills and a full learning experience through accessible delivery in supportive
15 settings, which is particularly noteworthy in a rural region that is experiencing significant
16 demographic and economic change.

17
18 The mission for Minnesota West Community and Technical College is guided by a vision that
19 reads “Minnesota West Community & Technical College provides dynamic, responsive,
20 creative, and quality education to a diverse population in an ever-changing educational, business
21 and cultural environment.”

22
23 Minnesota West Community and Technical College envisions a future in which:

24 The institution will continue to be responsive, creative in an ever changing environment that
25 includes increasingly diverse population and needs, more electronic means and uses for
26 educational delivery, more measures of accountability, and increasing opportunities for
27 partnerships.

28
29 b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other
30 institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment
31 of the system mission and vision:

32
33 Minnesota West Community and Technical College is a regionally accredited institution of
34 higher education that has consistently worked with many other colleges and universities,
35 community organizations, and K-12 schools.

36
37 The Minnesota West Community and Technical College vision, mission, and purposes are
38 consistent with statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements. The Minnesota West
39 Community and Technical College mission and vision supports the system mission and vision by
40 enabling the people of Minnesota to succeed by providing accessible, high quality, and high
41 value education through innovative instruction, collaborative partnerships, relevant programs,
42 highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art technology in an exemplary learning environment.

43
44
45

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

2 Minnesota West Community and Technical College's purposes are:

- 3 1. Create learning opportunities for the citizens of southwest Minnesota that reflect the
4 rapidly changing demographics of the region.
- 5 2. Create a campus atmosphere that embraces the needs of the students and encourages the
6 desire for learning both inside and outside of the classroom.
- 7 3. Create a learning environment that broadens the capabilities of student, staff and faculty
8 by expanding its instructional horizon to include all possible learning tools.
- 9 4. Collaborate with businesses and communities in southwest Minnesota to identify
10 opportunities for the enhancement of the economy and to provide coordinated political
11 action.
- 12 5. Secure external funds to maintain high quality and affordable learning opportunities for
13 the citizens of southwest Minnesota.

14
15 The purposes support Minnesota West Community and Technical College efforts to:

- 16 • Increase the level of underrepresented students.
- 17 • The college will provide services/education to diverse populations.
- 18 • The college will expand distance learning opportunities.
- 19 • Minnesota West will increase economic opportunities for businesses and communities.
- 20 • Minnesota West will secure external funds to maintain affordable learning opportunities.
- 21 • The college will improve student retention.

22
23 Minnesota West Community and Technical College offers Associate in Applied Science and
24 Associate in Science degrees, as well as technical certificates and diplomas.

25
26 Minnesota West Community and Technical College has a profoundly unique role within the
27 system because of the demographics:

- 28 • An agricultural setting with abundant natural resources for biofuels, wind energy and
29 traditional farming.
- 30 • A population of increasing diverse populations and in some towns 15 or more languages.
- 31 • Increasing health care facilities, aging population and health care needs.

32
33 Unique Responses

- 34 1. The multi-faceted delivery system places Minnesota West 3rd in small colleges in the
35 nation for quality digital educational delivery.
- 36 2. New programs in biodiesel fuel and wind energy production are unique.
- 37 3. Diversity student programs on five campuses.

1 4. Online and ITV delivery to a wide range of constituent partners.

2 5. Partnership with Sanford Health, utilizing hospital facilities.

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

4
5 Minnesota West Community and Technical College has had a thorough planning process.
6 Beginning prior to merger advisory committees, partners and constituents had been included in
7 identifying the mission and purposes. In August of 2001 Minnesota West Community and
8 Technical College contracted with the Clements Group (consulting firm) to conduct an extensive
9 strategic planning process which, for the next year, included students, staff, faculty, businesses
10 and industry, and college wide constituents. The result of the process concluded with a revised
11 mission statement, goals, vision and articulated purposes. Group advisory feedback, surveys,
12 interviews and research of relevant demographics were used to reach a comprehensive statement.

13
14 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

15
16 The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve
17 the Minnesota West Community and Technical College vision, mission, purposes, and array of
18 awards as listed in the executive summary.

19
20 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

21
22 The Board of Trustees approves the request by Minnesota West Community and Technical
23 College to approve its vision, mission, purposes, and array of awards as listed in the executive
24 summary.