

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Academic and Student Affairs **Date of Meeting:** September 16, 2008

Agenda Item: Anoka 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):

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

Background Information:

The new mission for Anoka 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

ANOKA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION APPROVAL

1 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2
3 The proposed vision, mission and purposes of Anoka 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 **Anoka Technical College’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:**

8
9 **Vision:** A vital student- and community-focused institution, providing the finest career and
10 technical education in Minnesota.

11
12 **Mission:** Provide innovative career and technical education to help our students and
13 communities live and learn well.

14
15 **Purposes:** Anoka Technical College’s purposes are:

- 16 1. Expand delivery strategies.
17 2. Support student readiness and seamless transitions.
18 3. Improve student support.
19 4. Address affordability.
20 5. Meet diverse needs of the community.
21 6. Focus institutional advancement.
22 7. Become an employer of choice.
23 8. Catalyze K-12/technical education collaboration.

24
25 **Array of Awards:** Anoka Technical College offers the Associate in Applied Sciences degree as
26 well as a variety of technical certificates and diplomas.

27
28 **An institution’s mission, vision and purposes shall support achievement of the system**

29 **mission and vision:** Anoka Technical College’s proposed mission is “Provide innovative career
30 and technical education to help our students and communities live and learn well.” The proposed
31 Anoka Technical College mission supports the system mission by focusing on technical, career
32 and personal skills for students to become productive and supportive members of the life and
33 economies of the communities in which they live and work.

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35
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1 The mission supports the following system strategic directions:

- 2 • **Strategic Direction One – Increase Access and Opportunity** by providing “technical
3 education to help our students and communities.”
4
- 5 • **Strategic Direction Two – Expand High-Quality Learning Programs and Services** by
6 offering programs and services that “help students and communities live and learn well.”
7
- 8 • **Strategic Direction Three – Strengthen Community Development and Economic
9 Vitality** by focusing on serving the communities in the college’s region.
10
- 11 • **Strategic Direction Four – Innovate to meet current and future needs** by emphasizing
12 “innovative career and technical education.”
13

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

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

21 **BACKGROUND**

22
23 The Higher Learning Commission awarded Anoka Technical College its last comprehensive
24 PEAQ accreditation in the 2003-2004 school year. This accreditation is valid through the 2013-
25 2014 school year. The college received a focus visit on assessment and strategic planning during
26 the 2006-2007 school year.
27

28 **Mission, Vision and Purposes Application Analysis**

29 The proposed vision, mission, and purposes of Anoka Technical College meet the criteria
30 identified in Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and Approval
31 of System Institutional Missions.
32

33 As required by procedure, the institution must indicate:

- 34 a. How its mission and vision respond to the definitions in procedure 3.24.1.
- 35 b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other
36 institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment
37 of the system mission and vision.
- 38 c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers.
- 39 d. How the new mission compares with the former mission.
- 40 e. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders.
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42 Additionally, the institution’s mission must be compliant with statute, policy, and regional
43 accreditation requirements.
44
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46

1
2 **Review of Anoka Technical College’s Mission, Vision and Purposes**

3 Anoka Technical College’s proposed vision, proposed mission and purposes meet these
4 requirements.

5
6 a. The mission and vision respond to the definitions in the procedure:
7

8 Anoka Technical College’s proposed mission is “Provide innovative career and technical
9 education to help our students and communities live and learn well.” Anoka Technical College’s
10 proposed mission emphasizes that the college aims to help students and communities to live and
11 learn well. This means helping students to enroll in the right program and persist in that program
12 until they reach their goals toward being productive members of the workforce and community.
13

14 The proposed mission for Anoka Technical College is guided by a vision that reads “A vital
15 student- and community-focused institution, providing the finest career and technical education
16 in Minnesota.” Anoka Technical College envisions a future in which:

- 17 • The college hopes to improve its already strong relationships with the communities in its
18 service area.
- 19 • The college will adopt innovative curriculum and processes to help students efficiently and
20 effectively learn the latest skills and technologies for their career field.
- 21 • The college will develop a wider variety of support services to help students achieve their
22 learning goals once they enroll at the college.

23
24 b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other
25 institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment
26 of the system mission and vision:
27

28 Anoka Technical College is a regionally accredited institution of higher education that has
29 consistently worked with many other colleges and universities, community organizations, and K-
30 12 schools.

31
32 The Anoka Technical College proposed vision, mission, and purposes are consistent with statute,
33 policy, and regional accreditation requirements. The proposed Anoka Technical College mission
34 and vision support the system mission and vision by focusing on innovative career and technical
35 education to help our students and communities and being a vital student- and community-
36 focused institution.

37
38 c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers:

39 Anoka Technical College’s purposes are:

- 40 1. Expand delivery strategies.
- 41 2. Support student readiness and seamless transitions.
- 42 3. Improve student support.
- 43 4. Address affordability.
- 44 5. Meet diverse needs of the community.
- 45 6. Focus institutional advancement.
- 46 7. Become an employer of choice.

1 8. Catalyze K-12/technical education collaboration.

2
3 The purposes/goals are designed to help students enroll at Anoka Technical College ready to
4 learn and then persist at the college until they reach their learning goals. These outcomes will be
5 achieved by trying to keep the cost of attending affordable and by providing personal and
6 learning support to help students from all walks of life to succeed at the college so they can
7 become more productive and contributing members of their communities.

8
9 Anoka Technical College offers Associate in Applied Sciences, Associate in Science, as well as
10 technical certificates and diplomas.

11
12 Anoka Technical College's primary niche is being one of just a handful of pure technical
13 colleges in the Twin Cities and the state. The college is proud of its technical heritage and
14 occupational focus and reaffirms this in its new mission by stating that the college provides,
15 "innovative career and technical education."

16
17 In addition, a significant strength of the college is a K-12 and technical education collaboration.
18 The Secondary Technical Education Program (STEP) high school is located right on the campus
19 of Anoka Technical College. This strong partnership with the Anoka-Hennepin School District
20 allows STEP students to easily take courses at the college and see what it takes to succeed at the
21 college level. Co-location allows high school and college faculty to work collaboratively to
22 build and articulate programs.

23
24 d. How the new mission compares with the former mission:

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26 The former mission of Anoka Technical College was, "Anoka Technical College is an institution
27 of higher education providing quality technical and general education for employment,
28 workforce development and lifelong learning through partnerships with business, industry and
29 the community." The new mission reads, "Provide innovative career and technical education to
30 help our students and communities live and learn well." Compared to the former mission
31 statement, the new version reflects the College constituencies' desire for precision, energy and
32 focus on the primary beneficiaries of the institution's teaching and learning activity: students,
33 and the communities they represent.

34
35 e. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders:

36
37 The overall process began in the 2006-2007 school year as part of the Higher Learning
38 Commission's focused visit. This led the college to hire Mark Milliron, President and CEO,
39 Catalyze Learning International, to facilitate the planning process. This process:

- 40 • Involved a wide variety of college and community stakeholders ranging from college
41 employees to local elected officials and members of the college's business community.
- 42 • Encouraged stakeholder contributions through planning meetings as well through an online
43 blog that asked visitors to respond to specific planning questions.

- 1 • Used internal and external stakeholders to revise initial drafts of visions, missions, values and
2 goals so that they clearly and specifically focused on serving the needs of students and
3 communities.

4 The college needs the approval of the Board of trustees to meet the requirements of the Higher
5 Learning Commission and the Board's own mission change policy.

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7

8 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

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

13

14 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

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