Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed David Metzen as Director of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. Metzen, 67, is a past two-term member of the University of Minnesota Board Of Regents and was Chair of the Board of Regents from 2003-05. He served the South St. Paul School District as superintendent from 1982-2000 and was previously an elementary school teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent specializing in curriculum in the district.

"Dave Metzen has a passion for education and the leadership skills to challenge our higher education system to reform and improve," Governor Pawlenty said.

Metzen graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1964. He later earned a master's degree and a doctorate in educational administration from the University. In addition to his education roles, he served as Executive Director of the Dodge Nature Center from 2001-2004, works as a leadership consultant, and has served on several non-profit boards.