

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

BOARD ACTION

**Mission Approval:
Rainy River Community College**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Rainy River Community College’s vision, mission, purposes and array of awards are:

Vision: Rainy River Community College will inspire learners and their communities to achieve their full potential.

Mission: Rainy River Community College serves its communities by guiding learners to achieve their educational, career, personal, and civic goals.

Purposes: Rainy River Community College’s purposes are:

1. Recruit and retain the wide variety of students best served by the colleges program and services.
2. Review and develop academic and technical programs that best serve the college’s students and communities.
3. Pursue collaboration with community, government, business and education organizations to improve teaching and learning and enhance community vitality.
4. Encourage and empower faculty, staff, students and community members to guide the college.

Array of Awards: Rainy River Community College offers Associate in Arts Degree, Associate in Science Degree, Applied Science Degree, and various Diploma and Certificate programs.

An institution’s mission, vision and purposes shall support achievement of the MnSCU system mission and vision: Rainy River Community College’s proposed mission is “Rainy River Community College serves its communities by guiding learners to achieve their educational, career, personal, and civic goals.” The mission supports the following system strategic directions:

- **Strategic Direction One – Increase Access and Opportunity** by making programs and services available that guide learners to achieve their educational, career, personal and civic goals.

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- 1 • **Strategic Direction Two – Expand High Quality Learning Programs and Services** by
2 guiding learners to achieve their career, personal and civic goals.
- 3 • **Strategic Direction Three – Strengthen Community Development and Economic**
4 **Vitality** by guiding learners to achieve their career and civic goals.
- 5
- 6 1. **An institution’s mission, vision, and purposes shall provide a foundation for evaluation,**
7 **accountability, and regional accreditation:** Rainy River Community College’s vision,
8 proposed mission and purposes provide a basis for evaluation, accountability, and regional
9 accreditation.
- 10 2. **Compliance:** Rainy River Community College’s vision, proposed mission and purposes are
11 consistent with statute, policy and regional accreditation requirements.
- 12

13 **BACKGROUND**

14
15 Rainy River Community College was founded in 1967 when a group of International Falls
16 citizens convinced the Minnesota legislature to establish a college in their community. This
17 community continues a strong partnership with the college.

18
19 The college’s students number about 500 per term, and come from this community, throughout
20 Minnesota, the U.S., Canada and from other foreign countries. They range in age from 16 to 84.
21 The college serves Post Secondary Enrollment Option students from local high schools to senior
22 citizens fulfilling their desire for lifelong learning. The average age of our graduates is 24. Over
23 90 percent will receive some financial aid. Ten percent of the students are from underrepresented
24 racial/ethnic groups.

25
26 Rainy River Community College received a 10-year accreditation from the Higher Learning
27 Commission in 1999 and the next evaluation by the Higher Learning Commission is scheduled
28 for 2008-2009. In 2002, Rainy River Community College joined the Higher Learning
29 Commission’s Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) which allows for a continuous
30 process of review and improvement.

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

32 The vision, proposed mission and purposes of Rainy River Community College meet the criteria
33 identified in MnSCU Board Policy 3.24 System and Institutional Missions, Part 2: Review and
34 Approval of MnSCU Institutional Missions.

35
36 As required by procedure, the institution must indicate:

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

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

3
4 **Review of Rainy River Community College’s Mission, Vision and Purposes**

5 Rainy River Community College’s vision, proposed mission and purposes meet the requirements
6 stated in this procedure.

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

9
10 Rainy River Community College’s proposed mission is “Rainy River Community College serves
11 its communities by guiding learners to achieve their educational, career, personal, and civic
12 goals.” Rainy River Community College’s proposed mission emphasizes that the college aims to
13 prepare learners for the different roles they play as learner, worker, citizen and community
14 member. It also stresses that the college guides the learner in this process. Overall, Rainy River
15 Community College wants to work in partnership with learners so they achieve their goals.

16
17 The proposed mission for Rainy River Community College is guided by a vision that reads
18 “Rainy River Community College will inspire learners and their communities to achieve their
19 full potential.” Rainy River Community College envisions a future in which it remains a central
20 resource that inspires individual learners and their communities to identify and reach their full
21 potential.

22
23 b. The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other
24 institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support fulfillment
25 of the system mission and vision:

26
27 Rainy River Community College is a fully accredited institution of higher education that has
28 consistently worked with many other colleges and universities, community organizations, and K-
29 12 schools.

30
31 The Rainy River Community College vision, proposed mission and purposes are consistent with
32 statute, policy, and regional accreditation requirements. Rainy River Community College’s
33 proposed mission supports fulfillment of the Minnesota State College and Universities system
34 vision and mission intention of providing high quality, accessible future-oriented higher
35 education, relevant research and community service. The proposed Rainy River Community
36 College mission also supports the following system goals:

- 37 • **Strategic Direction One – Increase Access and Opportunity** by making programs and
38 services available that guide learners to achieve their educational, career, personal and civic
39 goals.
- 40 • **Strategic Direction Two – Expand High Quality Learning Programs and Services** by
41 guiding learners to achieve their career, personal and civic goals.
- 42 • **Strategic Direction Three – Strengthen Community Development and Economic**
43 **Vitality** by guiding learners to achieve their career and civic goals.

44
45 c. Its purposes and the array of awards it offers:

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1 Rainy River Community College’s purposes are:

- 2 1. Recruit and retain the wide variety of students best served by the colleges program and
3 services.
- 4 2. Review and develop academic and technical programs that best serve the college’s students
5 and communities.
- 6 3. Pursue collaboration with community, government, business and education organizations to
7 improve teaching and learning and enhance community vitality.
- 8 4. Encourage and empower faculty, staff, students and community members to guide the
9 college.

10
11 Rainy River Community College offers Associate in Arts Degree, Associate in Science Degree,
12 Applied Science Degree, and various Diploma and Certificate programs.

13
14 Students who complete the Associate in Arts Degree at Rainy River Community College, which
15 includes the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, are assured of smooth transfer into state colleges
16 and universities as well as into specific programs at the University of Minnesota.

17
18 d. How the new mission compares with the former mission.

19
20 The former mission of Rainy River Community College is, “Rainy River Community College
21 provides an accessible, student-centered learning environment, and promotes academic
22 achievement, personal development, employment opportunities, and community involvement.”
23 The new mission reads, “Rainy River Community College serves its communities by guiding
24 learners to achieve their educational, career, personal, and civic goals.” The new mission retains
25 the emphasis on academic achievement, personal development, employment preparation and
26 community service because these are timeless goals of the institution and of public two-year
27 colleges. The primary difference in the new mission is that it emphasizes that the college guides
28 learners to develop knowledge and skills so they can succeed at a wide variety of important roles
29 in their lives. These roles include learner, worker, citizen, and community-member.

30
31 e. Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders.

32 The proposed mission, vision and purpose statements for Rainy River Community College were
33 developed with a process that involved faculty, staff, administration, students, and community
34 members. College leaders used a cross-functional committee of faculty, staff, students and
35 administrators worked over the course of an academic year to review relevant community and
36 college data to craft a mission statement that reflected the core reason for the college’s existence.
37 In addition, draft versions of the mission were submitted to all college faculty staff and
38 administrators for their review and comment. The draft mission was also shared with key
39 community members for their input.

40
41 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE MOTION**

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43 The Educational Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Rainy
44 River Community College vision, proposed mission, purposes and array of awards which are
45 listed in the executive summary.

46
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1 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

2

3 The Board of Trustees approves the request by Rainy River Community College to approve its
4 vision, proposed mission, purposes and array of awards which are listed in the executive
5 summary.