Committee: Educational Policy  Date of Meeting: March 21, 2006

Agenda Item: Hennepin Technical College Mission Approval

- Proposed Policy Change

x 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 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Institutional Missions, requires the Board of Trustees to approve each institution's mission, vision, and purposes.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Ronald Kraft, Interim President Hennepin Technical College
Jerry J. Johnson, Interim Vice President for Learning and Academic Innovation, Hennepin Technical College

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The proposed revisions meet Board Policy 3.24, System and Institutional Missions, Part 2, Review and Approval of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Institutional Missions and Board Policy 3.25, Degree Granting Authority, Part 3, Authority for Specific Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.

Background Information:

Hennepin Technical College is requesting a revision of its mission to include authority to offer the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. New vision and purpose statements are proposed.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Vision, Mission, Purposes and Array of Awards for Hennepin Technical College

Vision

Hennepin Technical College’s vision is to be recognized as a leading provider of career and technical education.

Mission

Hennepin Technical College’s mission is to provide quality technical education needed for employment in an ever-changing global work environment.

Purposes

Purpose 1 A safe, accessible, and effective teaching and learning environment that supports sensitivity to diverse individuals and groups.

Purpose 2 Individual courses and course sequences that lead to A.S. degrees, A.A.S. degrees, diplomas, and certificates, which provide learners the opportunity to maximize their potential through the lifelong learning process.

Purpose 3 Developmental, general education, and technical career education curricula designed to prepare learners for employment in an ever-changing workplace.

Purpose 4 A comprehensive array of student support services and financial assistance.

Purpose 5 Opportunities for students to develop leadership skills through participation in student and professional organizations.

Purpose 6 Positive working relationships with business, industry and other agencies to ensure that programs and equipment are relevant to emerging technology and occupational innovation.

Purpose 7 Flexible and responsive Customized Training Services to meet the specific needs and expectations of business, industry, and the community.

Purpose 8 Leadership roles that foster professional growth and promotion for a diverse, qualified staff.
Purpose 9 Intercollegiate relationships and cooperative agreements which increase opportunities and maximize resources.

Purpose 10 Organizational structures that support communication, shared decision-making, and quality programs and services.

Array of Awards

Hennepin Technical College offers certificates, diplomas, and Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees.

BACKGROUND

Hennepin Technical College is requesting authority to offer the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree. New vision and purpose statements are proposed.

Mission and vision statements for Hennepin Technical College were last approved by the Board of Trustees on December 16, 1998. The proposed purposes are very similar to the college vision approved in 1998, with an addition to include reference to offering A.S. degrees. The mission statement has not been changed.

Hennepin Technical College is a partner institution in the Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence. A.S. degree authority will support new career pathways to be created by the Center as well as enable transfer-oriented degrees in other career fields such as early childhood education.

Hennepin Technical College (HTC), initially named Hennepin County Area Vocational-Technical Institute, opened in the fall of 1972 as part of Intermediate School District 287. The College is strategically located to serve students and industry in a high growth area of the state through campuses in Brooklyn Park and Eden Prairie and Customized Training Services in Plymouth.

HTC was initially accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Commission on Schools. In 1996, the College received initial candidacy from the North Central Association of Colleges, and on June 28, 1999, North Central Association, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NCA-CIHE), granted initial accreditation to HTC. Following initial NCA-CIHE accreditation, the College prepared a mandated focused report for upgrading faculty academic credentials and the implementation of the Student Academic Achievement Plan. A focused visit was held in April 2001, and the visiting team recommended that progress reports be submitted on the aforementioned two items. These reports were accepted by the Higher Learning Commission, and in March 2003 the college received notification that no further reports were required. The next reaffirmation of accreditation will be held in the 2009-2010 academic year.

In 2003, HTC adopted the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) as its accreditation process and framework for continuous improvement. As required by AQIP, HTC is currently
preparing its initial Systems Portfolio for November 2006 submission, and during the 2006-2007 school year the college will undergo an AQIP Systems Appraisal.

ANALYSIS

The proposed revisions meet Board Policy 3.24, System and Institutional Missions, Part 2, Review and Approval of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Institutional Missions and Board Policy 3.25, Degree Granting Authority, Part 3, Authority for Specific Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates.

How the mission and vision respond to definitions in Board Procedure 3.24.1

The mission statement describes:

- **Who is to be served?**
  People who need quality technical education.

- **What are our outcomes?**
  Students will qualify for employment in an ever-changing global work environment. The goal of HTC is to provide education and training that reflects the changing context of student needs, business, industry, other educational partners, and the greater community.

- **Why do we exist?**
  HTC exists to provide opportunities for students to improve themselves as a result of their engagement in career and technical education.

The proposed vision statement describes:

- **What will the ideal future look like?**
  The ideal future of HTC is to be a college of choice and to be recognized as the leading provider of career and technical education. HTC’s vision supports the notion that students should be able to avail themselves of programs that are a bridge to lifelong learning.

- **What is likely to be different about the institution and its environment five years from now?**
  HTC’s vision recognizes that if the college is to be an institution of choice, it needs to adapt to changing needs of students and business and industry. HTC will continue to offer courses, certificates, diplomas and A.A.S. degrees, all of which focus on education for employment. In response to new interests and needs, HTC intends to offer several A.S. degrees with a broadened focus of transfer to related baccalaureate degrees.

- **What is distinctive or unique about the institution?**
  HTC’s vision is to remain focused on excellence in career and technical education. HTC is uniquely committed to New Designs, which is a philosophy of beliefs and commitments that serve as a basis for inclusive academic planning and decision-making.
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

HTC’s mission supports MnSCU’s mission through the following:

• Maintaining its commitment to providing career and technical education for those seeking employment in skilled occupations and for incumbent workers wishing to upgrade themselves in skilled occupations.
• Providing students with workforce skills and critical thinking skills through the offering of general education appropriate to HTC’s mission and purposes.
• Enhancing student success by providing accessible and user-friendly student support services.
• Providing support mechanisms for students from diverse cultural backgrounds so they may have access to HTC programs and services.
• Stressing quality and improvement of HTC’s programs and services through implementation of AQIP.

The institution’s purposes and array of awards

HTC proposes to enhance its current program offerings to include the Associate in Science degree. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board Policy 3.25 states “Associate in Science (A.S.) degree programs may be delivered and these degrees conferred by any college or university.”

HTC believes this change will appeal to a new market, and enrollments are projected to increase in existing general education courses and technical education courses.

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

The new vision statement was developed as part of the Master Academic Plan for the Years 2005-2010. A planning group conducted an environmental scan, drafted the plan and presented it to faculty and staff.

The proposed addition of A.S. degrees in the second purposes statement was informally and formally discussed among HTC’s stakeholder groups. The proposed addition was approved by majority vote at the Academic Affairs and Standards Council on January 25, 2006, and the change was unanimously endorsed at Shared Governance Council on February 1, 2006. The President’s Administrative Council approved the proposal to develop A.S. degree programs on February 23, 2006.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

The Educational Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion.
RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the revised vision, mission, and purposes of Hennepin Technical College which are:

Vision

Hennepin Technical College’s vision is to be recognized as a leading provider of career and technical education.

Mission

Hennepin Technical College’s mission is to provide quality technical education needed for employment in an ever-changing global work environment.

Purposes

Purpose 1  A safe, accessible, and effective teaching and learning environment that supports sensitivity to diverse individuals and groups.
Purpose 2  Individual courses and course sequences that lead to A.S. degrees, A.A.S. degrees, diplomas, and certificates, which provide learners the opportunity to maximize their potential through the lifelong learning process.
Purpose 3  Developmental, general education, and technical career education curricula designed to prepare learners for employment in an ever-changing workplace.
Purpose 4  A comprehensive array of student support services and financial assistance.
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Purpose 7  Flexible and responsive Customized Training Services to meet the specific needs and expectations of business, industry, and the community.
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Purpose 10  Organizational structures that support communication, shared decision-making, and quality programs and services.

Date of Adoption: 03/22/06
Date of Implementation: 03/22/06