

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

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

Agenda Item: Northwest Technical College-Bemidji Mission Approval

Proposed Policy Change 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
Jon Quistgaard, President, Northwest Technical College
Charles Giammona, Provost, Northwest 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.

Background Information:

Northwest Technical College proposes new mission, vision and purpose statements. These statements have grown out of the college's recent status as an independent college aligned with Bemidji State University.

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

BOARD ACTION

Northwest Technical College-Bemidji Mission Approval

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Vision

Northwest Technical College is a technological learning organization that is also open and inviting, comprised of professionals that value life-long learning and the worth and dignity of all people. Guided by a commitment to excellence through education with a global focus, Northwest Technical College looks to become the premiere technical college in Minnesota.

The academic and co-curricular culture at Northwest Technical College encourages an appreciation of differences and a rich knowledge of self and others that is the foundation of democratic citizenship in a technological world. Such an education is a life-enhancing opportunity that will enable individuals to reach their fullest potential and contribute to the richness of the natural, human, and economic resources of this region.

Mission

Northwest Technical College integrates the value of work with the educational experience to develop resourceful lifelong learners with knowledge, skills, and attitudes to secure rewarding careers and satisfying lives in an increasingly technologically focused, globally interdependent, multicultural society.

Purposes

Purpose 1 Develop intentional learners who are empowered, informed, and responsible.

Purpose 2 Provide validated learning experiences that integrate emerging technology and innovation.

Purpose 3 Enhance educational access and opportunities.

Purpose 4 Provide services and enrichment experiences supportive to our academic environment.

Purpose 5 Promote continuous learning and the effective use of resources.

Purpose 6 Promote civic and professional engagement, critical thinking, problem-solving, and global perspectives.

1 **Purpose 7** Promote an environment that values individual service, diversity, and respect for self
2 and others.

3 **Purpose 8** Contribute to opportunity, prosperity, and enhanced quality of life by collaborating
4 with local, regional, and global partners in preparing and retraining a highly qualified workforce.
5

6 **Array of Awards**

7

8 Northwest Technical College offers certificates, diplomas, and Associate in Applied Science and
9 Associate in Science degrees.
10

11 **BACKGROUND**

12

13 Northwest Technical College's history dates back to 1965. Over the years, the College evolved
14 several new names and expanded from two programs to programs in medical business, child
15 development, industrial technology, and other technological fields that meet the increasing needs
16 of its learners, the state, and the nation.
17

18 In 1992, Bemidji Technical College became part of a five-campus institution, Northwest
19 Technical College. After ten years, the Board of Trustees reconfigured the five campuses in
20 2003. Four technical colleges were combined with two area community colleges. Northwest
21 Technical College became an independent college aligned with Bemidji State University. The
22 Board appointed BSU's president, Dr. Jon Quistgaard, as president of Northwest Technical
23 College as well. This relationship is the foundation for developing alignments in the
24 administrative, academic, and co-curricular programs and services of NTC and BSU and has
25 resulted in a need to revisit and revise the College mission, which was last reviewed by the
26 Board in June, 2004.
27

28 The technical college was managed as a separate financial entity while it was being separated
29 from the former technical college structure; in fiscal year 2006, the financial management of the
30 university and technical college have been aligned and treated as one unit for purposes of
31 financial rights and responsibilities. From a budgetary standpoint, the president is able to
32 designate resources to one entity or the other.
33

34 The former multi-campus technical college received initial accreditation from the North Central
35 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (later the
36 Higher Learning Commission) in August 1995. A visit in 2000 resulted in continuing
37 accreditation through 2010, as well as approval to offer associate degree programs at corporate
38 sites and to offer certain programs online. In November 2000, NTC was accepted into the
39 Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) accreditation
40 track, with reaffirmation of accreditation scheduled to occur in 2007-08. The College has
41 chosen to continue in the AQIP accreditation track; thus, its accreditation reaffirmation remains
42 scheduled for 2007-08.
43
44
45
46

1
2 **ANALYSIS**
3

4 The proposed Vision, Mission, and Purposes for Northwest Technical College meet the criteria
5 in Board Policy 3.24, System and Institutional Missions, Part 2, Review and Approval of
6 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Institutional Missions.

7 **How the mission and vision respond to definitions in Board Procedure 3.24.1**
8

9 The mission statement describes:
10

- 11 • *Who is to be served?*
12 Those who desire learning opportunities that will enable them to become resourceful
13 lifelong learners who have acquired knowledge, skills, and attitudes to secure rewarding
14 careers and satisfying lives.
- 15 • *What are our outcomes?*
16 Resourceful lifelong learners who have acquired the necessary knowledge, skills, and
17 attitudes to secure rewarding careers and satisfying lives.
- 18 • *Why do we exist?*
19 To develop resourceful lifelong learners with knowledge, skills and attitudes to secure
20 rewarding careers and satisfying lives in an increasingly technologically focused,
21 globally interdependent, multicultural society.
22

23 The proposed vision statement describes:
24

- 25 • *What will the ideal future look like?*
26 Through on-campus and technological delivery options, Northwest Technical College
27 faculty and staff touch the lives of learners in Minnesota and beyond. The academic and
28 co-curricular culture at Northwest Technical College encourages an appreciation of
29 differences and a rich knowledge of self and others that is the foundation of democratic
30 citizenship in a technological world.
31

32 Recognizing the complexities and interdependence of individuals, groups, and societies
33 in today's world, the College's new vision expands its focus and that of its learners. As
34 NTC and Bemidji State University move forward in developing their alignment, the new
35 vision is congruent with this new model of higher education—a model that supports the
36 development of the full potential of the individual, both intellectually and
37 technologically, into responsible, productive leaders and citizens who are responsible not
38 only to their immediate family and community, but to the global community.
39

- 40 • *What is likely to be different about the institution and its environment five years from
41 now?*

42 The College will have become the premiere technical college in Minnesota, providing a
43 life-enhancing opportunity that will enable individuals to reach their fullest potential.
44

45 The size and scope of the College will have grown commensurate with the maturity of its
46 relationships with Bemidji State University, with area high schools, with regional

1 business and industry, and with other higher educational institutions, but also with
2 learners nation- and world-wide. Extending its influence beyond the boundaries of the
3 region and state, the aligned college will be key in the economic success not only of the
4 region, but also of the state. Programming must evolve along with occupational and
5 societal demands.
6

7 • *What is distinctive or unique about the institution?*

8 Northwest Technical College is a personal college -- a learning organization that is open
9 and inviting, comprised of competent, nurturing professionals that value life-long
10 learning and the worth and dignity of all people.
11

12 The academic and co-curricular culture at Northwest Technical College encourages an
13 appreciation of differences and a rich knowledge of self and others that is the foundation
14 of democratic citizenship in a technological world.
15

16 Through the success of our learners and our commitment to excellence, Northwest
17 Technical College contributes to the richness of the natural, human, and economic
18 resources of this region.
19

20 **The extent to which the institution will meet expectations of law, how it relates to other**
21 **institutions of higher education, and how its mission, vision and purposes support**
22 **fulfillment of the system mission and vision**
23

24 The mission of Northwest Technical College supports the mission and vision of the Minnesota
25 State Colleges and Universities system. Northwest Technical College is a distinct and
26 collaborative institution that offers higher education that meets a wide range of individual
27 learners' personal and career goals, enhances the quality of life for its learners, and helps to
28 sustain the economy of the region and the state.
29

- 30 • **Strategic Direction One:** NTC "increases access and opportunity." Through its thirty-
31 four academic and supportive co-curricular programs and services, the College develops
32 productive citizens with the knowledge, values, and highest quality technological skills
33 necessary to live and work in a global world.
34
- 35 • **Strategic Direction Two:** NTC "promotes and measures high-quality learning programs
36 and services." The ultimate goal of our college is to prepare skilled, resourceful, and
37 imaginative leaders who will effectively address the challenges of life in a technological
38 society and a multicultural world. Through the College's participation as an AQIP
39 college, it focuses on systematic measurement and improvement of its programs, services,
40 and processes.
41
- 42 • **Strategic Direction Three:** NTC "provides programs and services integral to state and
43 regional economic needs." Through the success of its graduates, Northwest Technical
44 College will help secure the richness of the natural, human and commercial resources of
45 this region and beyond. NTC serves as an integral cog in the wheel of economic

1 development in the region and the state, graduating learners who help form the backbone
2 of a highly qualified workforce.

- 3
- 4 • **Strategic Direction Four:** Through innovative alignment and partnerships, NTC and
5 BSU “innovate to meet current and future educational needs efficiently” through the
6 pursuit of each institution’s mission within a framework of alignment. Serving under the
7 same President, the two institutions have formed multiple program articulations and
8 service partnerships that have been and continue to be implemented through the alignment
9 of the two institutions.

10
11 The alignment of a technical college with a state university is a unique model for higher
12 education that is evolving as the relationship between the two institutions matures. The separate
13 mission and purposes of each institution allows the organizations to serve the needs of all the
14 citizens of the area and enhances the capacity for articulations, shared services, and combined
15 talents and opportunities.

16 17 **The institution’s purposes and array of awards**

18
19 All of the purposes reflect the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities mission and vision in
20 that they support access to high quality higher education. In addition, the purposes reflect the
21 System’s guiding principles in that they reinforce that the College:

- 22 • Provides affordable access (#1,3,4,5)
- 23 • Focuses on student success (#1,4,6,7)
- 24 • Works collaboratively and in partnership (#3,8)
- 25 • Advances diversity (#6,7)
- 26 • Promotes global competency (#6,8)
- 27 • Practices stewardship (#3,5)

28
29 Northwest Technical College offers certificates, diplomas, Associate in Applied Science, and
30 Associate in Science degrees. No change in the array of awards is proposed.

31 32 **Ample consultation with faculty, students, employers and other essential stakeholders**

33
34 The College consulted with both internal and external constituents.

- 35 • Meetings for the purpose of discussing and gathering feedback on the College’s mission
36 and vision were held for faculty and staff. Planning Teams also were charged with
37 reviewing and providing input.
- 38 • The Provost consulted with the Campus Government, who in turn communicated with
39 their fellow learners.
- 40 • The Provost met with the College’s Shared Governance council to discuss the mission
41 and the process for review.
- 42 • Letters from the Provost soliciting feedback on the College’s mission, vision and
43 purposes were sent to community members.
- 44 • Copies of the proposed draft mission, vision and purposes were distributed and made
45 available to all members of the College community.

- Feedback was solicited directly from advisory committee members through letters and/or through their attendance at advisory committee meetings.

This input was collected and considered in the process of developing the proposed new mission, vision, and purposes presented to the Board of Trustees.

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 vision, mission, purposes and array of awards of Northwest Technical College which are:

Vision

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2 global perspectives.

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4 and others.

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6 with local, regional, and global partners in preparing and retraining a highly qualified workforce.

7
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11 Associate in Science degrees.

12

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15 *Date of Adoption:* 03/22/06

16 *Date of Implementation:* 03/22/06

17