

**MINNESOTA**

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**BARBERS**

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**N m** Academic and Student Affairs Committee

**Da** : November 20, 2013

<b>F</b> : Pine Technical College - Cha(n1r .5vg).5vea(n)201raC	aper Approvals
New Policy or	Required by
Amendment to	Approvals
Existing Policy	

Monitoring /	Information
Compliance	

**EDp** :

**ED** s):

John O'Brien, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Robert Musgrove, President, Pine Technical College



1 Technical College application for a mission change and for the ability to offer an Associate in  
2 Arts degree addressed the following elements based in system procedures that are elaborated  
3 below:

- 4 x Mission Alignment
- 5 x Market Demand
- 6 x Partnership Opportunities
- 7 x Comprehensive Planning
- 8 x Current and Future Capacity

9  
10 Over the past decade, a number of colleges have requested and received approval for the same  
11 changes requested by Pine Technical College, including Saint Paul College and South Central  
12 College— along with, more recently Alexandria Technical and Community College and St.  
13 Cloud Technical and Community College. The proposal from Pine Technical College to offer the  
14 Associate in Arts degree and change its mission is in line with those previous requests

15  
16 Pine Technical College consulted extensively with internal constituent groups including the Pine  
17 Technical College Student Senate, the Academic Affairs and Standards Council, faculty shared  
18 governance, and the college's leadership team. In addition, the college consulted with civic  
19 clubs, local school boards, city council and county commissions, as well as the Pine Technical  
20 College Foundation. The college also met with its regional legislative delegation and all of its  
21 program advisory committees to seek input. The response was extremely positive, including  
22 numerous letters of support from regional workforce agencies, local community organizations,  
23 and our state universities.

#### 24 25 Mission Alignment

26 The proposed mission change will advance strategic framework objectives of the Minnesota  
27 State Colleges and Universities in the following ways:

- 28  
29 1. Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans
  - 30 o Access to the Associate in Arts degree advances the strategic framework in an
  - 31 underserved region of the state, where bachelor's degree attainment is only half of
  - 32 the state average. Pine Technical College's mission change would ensure more
  - 33 people (many of whom are place bound) have that access.
  - 34 o The change will position Pine Technical College as a place of opportunity by
  - 35 making education accessible to Minnesotans who seek secondary education,
  - 36 who want to update their skills, or who need to prepare for new careers.
- 37  
38 2. Be the partner of choice to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs
  - 39 o The real world challenge of inadequate basic and soft skills will be addressed with
  - 40 this change, positioning Pine Technical College to keep Minnesotans at the leading
  - 41 edge of their professions.
  - 42 o Pine Technical College, through this change, will enable east central Minnesota to
  - 43 meet the need for a better educated workforce by increasing the number of
  - 44 Minnesotans who have access to and complete Associate in Arts degrees.

- 3. Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value/most affordable option
  - o As one of the most affordable system institutions, Pine Technical College will be in a position to make that affordability available to transferees from Minnesota in this region.

The college recognizes potential concerns about the impact of a mission change on technical education and remains committed to its technical college mission. As noted in the recent workforcelistening sessions, general education will provide more options and access for students and will complement rather than compete with skills requested by employers. The proposed name change to Pine Technical and Community College is based on the interest in maintaining the college's tradition of providing technical education and being referred to as Pine Tech.

#### Market Demand

Expansion of the college mission to include the Associate in Degree has been driven by student interest and community input. Surveys of regional high school students indicate substantial interest in career paths that require a year degree. Input from technical program advisory committees, system workforce listening sessions, and other employer input indicate strong support for a mission change to increase opportunities and options for students and employees in the region.

A balanced offering of liberal arts and sciences and workforce programs is a critical need in the region. The system workforce assessment survey findings highlight a pervasive need for the so-called 'soft skilled'

1 headcount. Based on recent growth, a large percentage of the region's population with little or  
2 no higher education, and employment demand, this projection is a reasonable one  
3

4 Despite that enrollment growth, participation and education attainment rates remain a critical  
5 issue in East Central Minnesota. In 2009, only 42% of high school graduates from the region  
6 went on to enroll at a Minnesota institution. In Pine County, the rate is even lower at 32%. The  
7 Pine Technical College service area remains well below state averages in bachelor's  
8 attainment and that deficit ultimately results in lower per capita incomes, greater levels of  
9 poverty, and higher rates of unemployment than the rest of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

- 10 x Pine County's bachelor's degree attainment is among the lowest in the state with 12.9%
- 11 and neighboring Kanabec County at 13.8% (statewide figure is 20%).
- 12 x Pine County had the highest poverty rate (15.2%) in the region, which was much higher
- 13 than the state of Minnesota as a whole (11.5%) in 2010.

14  
15 Another troubling aspect is the significant gap in the intentions of local high schools students and  
16 their eventual postsecondary participation rates. According to the ACT PLAN survey, almost  
17 70% of 10th graders in the region intend to seek a bachelor's degree. However, as noted earlier,  
18 the reality is that only around 40% of graduates in the region actually do enroll in postsecondary  
education in pine4( , (18)Tj ( )Tj 2.5 24.15 Td [(t)-2(he)4( r)3(e)4(a)4(l)-2(y)20[(i)-2(n pn a)4(c)4(e4( v

1 groups, and program advisory committees. Campuswide strategic planning days in the s  
2 and fall of 2012 focused on this project and mission change. Each unit of the college examined  
3 ways in which it could make a positive contribution to the success of the mission change effort  
4 and each has developed action goals with measurable outcomes.

5  
6 The college community and external stakeholders support the ways that the mission change  
7 will substantially increase higher education opportunities for the region. Primary  
8 objectives identified by these stakeholders are to provide additional transfer opportunities and  
9 to enable students who are undecided to take courses and receive support in establishing an  
10 educational plan

11  
12 Current and Future Capacity  
13 Pine Technical College has demonstrated the capacity to offer the Associate in Arts degree  
14 through its improved financial condition, growth in enrollment, and increased course offerings  
15 The primary additional capacity and costs associated with increased library staff and  
16 faculty creditload, support for advising, a transfer specialist, and marketing. The system office  
17 finance division has reviewed the college estimates on projected enrollment, existing capacity,  
18 and potential emerging costs to offer and support the Associate in Arts and is satisfied  
19 with the financial pro forma that supports the proposed mission change

1 in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate additional course sections, should those be  
2 needed.

3  
4 Conclusion  
5 Pine Technical College's history, heritage and culture are centered on technical education. This  
6 proposed change in mission to become a comprehensive college will strengthen, not diminish,  
7 this focus. The mission change is not a wholesale change for the college but the completion of a  
8 process that has been underway for some time. The substantial benefits of providing educational  
9 access to students in this part of the state far outweigh the costs and risks. It is clear the college  
10 intends to retain its heritage as a college that educates students primarily of workforce – but  
11 also enhances its ability to provide an extraordinary education for students in its service area in  
12 the most accessible and effective way possible.

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14 RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

15  
16 This is a first reading, no action is required.

17  
18 RECOMMENDED MOTION

19  
20 NA