

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Name: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Date: October 22, 2014

Title: Mesabi Range College Mission Statement

Purpose (check one):

Proposed
New Policy or
Amendment to
Existing

Approvals
Required by

Other
Approvals

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

BOARD ACTION ITEM

APPROVAL OF MESABI RANGE COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

The mission of Mesabi Range College is being presented for Board approval. The mission and vision meet the criteria identified in Board Policy 3.24 Institution Type and Mission, and System Mission, Part 4: Approval of College or University Mission Statements.

Current Mission: Mesabi Range College provides high quality education resulting in rewarding employment, lifelong learning, and the enriched lives of our students and community.

Proposed Mission: Mesabi Range College is a progressive, student-focused institution, located in the heart of northeastern Minnesota, preparing diverse learners for fulfilling careers, college transfer, and lives of intellectual curiosity and discovery.

The revisions to the mission are primarily driven by the evolution of the college from the institution it was in 1999, when the current mission statement was approved by the MnSCU Board, to the institution it is today. The most significant evolutionary change is that Mesabi Range College currently serves other community and technical colleges, state universities, private colleges, and other institutions of higher education. Such expanded outreach has prompted a revision of the college’s mission, as well as the vision to reflect a more comprehensive statement regarding its commitment to a greater diversity of learners and communities.

Vision: Mesabi Range College will lead northeastern Minnesota in accessible, innovative, and high-quality educational and training opportunities.

The Mesabi Range College vision is intended to be succinct, inspirational, and aspirational. It suggests a process to attain excellence. It reiterates a goal to benchmark outcomes to institutions both internal and external to MnSCU. It provides a strong impetus to strive for excellence intentionally and recognizes the college’s determination to exceed stakeholders’ expectations.

The college vision and mission respond to the following elements in system procedure:

1. Alignment of proposed mission with the system mission and statewide needs
The proposed mission of Mesabi Range College aligns with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities mission and statewide needs by addressing the “personal and career goals” of the system’s mission statement by elevating the importance of “preparing diverse learners for fulfilling careers.” Next, the “enhances quality of life” outcome is addressed in Mesabi Range College’s statement as “preparing diverse learners for . . . lives

of intellectual curiosity and discovery.” The Guiding Principles, a subsection of Mesabi Range College’s mission and vision addresses “statewide needs” by recognizing the importance of partnerships as the college “fosters relationships with local, regional, and global business and education partners.”

2. The extent to which the college or university will meet expectations of statute and how it relates to other institutions of higher education -

The proposed revision does not change the extent to which the college will meet expectations of statute or how the college relates to other institutions of higher education. Mesabi will remain a comprehensive community college governed by statutes and laws of its accreditation agency, and the policies of the MnSCU Board of Trustees.

3. Array of awards it offers

Mesabi Range College offers transfer curricula, career programs, and developmental

- x College constituencies were then asked to rank those concepts and ideas from most important to the college to least important.
- x A volunteer team of faculty took those key concepts and words and drafted a mission statement.