FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of Dakota County Technical College (DCTC), I am pleased to present our constituents with DCTC’s 2012-2016 strategic planning document.

As public higher education continues to face prodigious budget circumstances and dramatic evolution in the workforce, technology and economy, the task of creating a plan to tackle our challenges and opportunities becomes increasingly difficult. For more than a year, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee comprised of a variety of constituents from the DCTC campus community worked diligently to determine our best course of action. I am pleased to report they have done a marvelous job and I am grateful for their hard work.

In addition to being a compilation of perspectives from our campus community, this document is also an extension of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system’s strategic framework. Via the strategic framework, DCTC is charged with ensuring we continue to provide an extraordinary education, be the partner of choice to meet the needs of Minnesota’s workforce, and deliver a high value and affordable product to our constituents. Each of our strategic directions is our unique response to the directives outlined in the framework.

Finally, our strategic plan is a direct reflection of our rich history and the desire of our faculty and staff to create an environment of innovation and success. DCTC is proud to have served students, businesses and communities in Minnesota and beyond for more than 40 years, and we look forward to continuing to be a key contributor in driving education, economic development and excellence in our service area well into the future.

As we implement this new plan, be assured that we will revisit the document frequently to revise and measure along the way to ensure we are meeting the needs of the DCTC community. We intend to live out our motto of providing a real education with real results, but we will need the work and support of the entire campus community in order to achieve our goals.

Please read the contents of this document carefully and consider how you can contribute to our success. Should you have feedback, please send your comments to ron.thomas@dctc.edu.

Thank you for being part of the DCTC community!

Ronald E. Thomas, Ph.D.
President
Dakota County Technical College
MISSION

To provide collegiate-level EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT that will empower individuals to enhance their opportunities for career advancement and success in a global economy.

VISION

To be recognized as a leader in providing quality technical and general education needed for employment in an ever-changing work environment.

VALUES

- **Excellence**: Focus on quality in programs and services
- **Diversity**: Show acceptance, openness and fairness to everyone
- **Innovation**: Encourage and reward new ideas, proactive thinking and use of evolving technology
- **Respect**: Foster trust, courtesy and open communication
- **Integrity**: Promote ethical and honest behavior
- **Accountability**: Maintain effective and efficient programs and services
- **Collaboration**: Work cooperatively in a supportive environment
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities play an essential role in growing Minnesota’s economy and open the doors of educational opportunity to all Minnesotans. To that end, we will:

**COMMITMENT #1**

**Ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans.**

- Our faculty and staff will provide the best education available in Minnesota, preparing graduates to lead in every sector of Minnesota’s economy.

- We will continue to be the place of opportunity, making education accessible to all Minnesotans who seek a college, technical or university education; those who want to update their skills; and those who need to prepare for new careers.
COMMITMENT #2

Advance technical education through partnerships and alliances with external stakeholders.

• Our colleges and universities will be the partner of choice for businesses and communities across Minnesota to help them solve real-world problems and keep Minnesotans at the leading edge of their professions.

• Our faculty and staff will enable Minnesota to meet its need for a substantially better educated workforce by increasing the number of Minnesotans who complete certificates, diplomas and degrees.

COMMITMENT #3

Deliver to students, employers, communities and taxpayers the highest value / most affordable option.

• Our colleges and universities will deliver the highest value to students, employers, communities and taxpayers.

• We will be the highest value / most affordable higher education option.
DCTC STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & GOALS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1

Cultivate dynamic educational experiences that evolve with market demands.

Goal 1.1  Expand access to college services.
Goal 1.2  Investigate and implement alternative delivery methods for courses/programs.
Goal 1.3  Contribute to students’ transitions from college to career and lifelong success.
Goal 1.4  Research, develop, expand, and monitor academic programs to ensure each meets the needs of the workforce and the demands of the global market.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2

Advance technical education through partnerships and alliances with external stakeholders.

Goal 2.1  Design and build a strong and engaged alumni presence.
Goal 2.2  Strengthen and further develop partnerships with business and industry at the local, national, and international level.
Goal 2.3  Continue collaborative efforts with a full range of education partners.
Goal 2.4  Enhance engagement with and support from the community.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3

Strengthen DCTC’s financial viability.

Goal 3.1: Research and pursue alternative sources of funding and stewardship.
Goal 3.2: Research and pursue process efficiencies.
Goal 3.3: Utilize technology to improve business processes.
Goal 3.4: Maximize space utilization.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4

Promote an environment of innovation and engagement.

Goal 4.1: Provide a welcoming environment to all college visitors.
Goal 4.2: Increase communication, collaboration, and teamwork between/among departments.
Goal 4.3: Foster employee engagement.