



MINNESOTA STATE

March 18, 2020

TO: Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College

FROM: Devinder Malhotra, Chancellor

RE: Appointment of Michael Berndt, President

Following my recommendation, the Minnesota State Board of Trustees appointed Michael Berndt as president of Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College. I greatly apologize that I will not be able to celebrate with the college communities tomorrow.

I want to thank the students, faculty, staff, and community members who served on the search advisory committee. I greatly appreciate your efforts and insight during this process.

Over the past 20 months, Michael has performed admirably, providing effective and strategic leadership for both institutions. He understands that in order to jointly secure DCTC and Inver Hill's future, your strategic positioning must be aligned. Since day one in serving as interim president, Michael immersed himself in developing one single strategic plan for both institutions. He recognizes that we must celebrate the two colleges' distinct programmatic orientations and identities: one as a technical college and the other as a community college. In short, two distinct identities and yet, operating with a unified strategic plan.

Michael recognizes that in order to lead effectively, there needs to be clarity around a shared vision, transparent communication, and consultative structures in place. He is analytical in his approach, intentional in pursuing data-driven decision making, and methodical in his execution. What I appreciate about Michael is that he brings an important strength as a strategic thinker coupled with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges, cultures, needs, and opportunities for DCTC and Inver Hills.

Michael is passionate about developing an organizational ethos aimed at their success, maintaining a laser focus on serving the students and the communities where the colleges are located. I know Michael will lead with the same inexhaustible capacity for hard work, positivity, and passion that has served him in all his roles.

My best to the DCTC and Inver Hills communities, and I look forward to celebrating with you in early fall.

