



# HVAC Excellence

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Minneapolis Community and Technical College Granted Accreditation**

August 25, 2009

Minneapolis Community and Technical College in Minneapolis, MN has been granted accreditation of its Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) program by HVAC Excellence.

#### **Why this is Important!**

Minneapolis Community and Technical College knows that the level of training graduates will need for success in the twenty first century is changing. To train students for success, the institution must be teaching cutting edge technology in the fastest growing industries.

The United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics forecast the HVACR industry will be one of the fastest growing occupations over the next decade.

The HVACR industry today uses an increasingly sophisticated combination of machinery and computers to deliver comfort to building occupants. Some of the jobs may require heavy knowledge of computers, and truly border some of the work that IT professionals do. Those entering the field will be working on complex systems that require a unique combination of hands-on skill and problem-solving intelligence. These are jobs that will be performed on American soil.

To validate that Minneapolis Community and Technical College was preparing their students at the highest level possible for jobs in the HVACR industry they decided to pursue third party validation of their program.

Programmatic accreditation is a growing trend in career and technical education where an independent third party reviews a program against set standards. Based on the stringent standards set by HVAC Excellence, the accreditation process validates that a program is preparing students for jobs in the HVACR industry and verifies that the program has the needed resources and administrative support to accomplish their goals. Additionally, accreditation: gives

the students more confidence in the HVACR program, provides employers the assurance that the graduates are properly trained, can increase enrollment, creates goals for self improvement, can increase budget funding, can assist the students in the acceptability of transfer credits, and it involved the faculty in the evaluation process.

To prepare for their accreditation, the staff at Minneapolis Community and Technical College had to complete a self study evaluation of their program. The self study once completed was submitted to HVAC Excellence for review. Executive members of HVAC Excellence thoroughly assessed the self study. Upon completion of their review, HVAC Excellence selected a group of industry veterans with over 70 years of combined technical, administrative and teaching experience in the HVAC industry to visit the campus and validate the self study through an intense on site evaluation.

The onsite visit took place on July 8, 2009 where the visiting team reviewed: curriculum, faculty, student facilities, placement services, financial aid, and advisory committee involvement, training facilities, equipment & safety.

During the onsite visitation, the following personnel were interviewed: Irene Kovala (vice president of academic and student affairs), Dr. Cheryl E. Roberts Saunders (dean of students), Michael Noble-Olson (purchasing manager), and Greg Skudlarek (HVACR instructor).

HVAC Excellence having reviewed the self study and evaluated the program decided to grant a six year accreditation. This is the highest accreditation attainable, making the Minneapolis Community and Technical College HVAC program one for others to emulate.

The final determination included numerous commendations, including: "The program instructor is commended for his professionalism and commitment to excellence in education. Greg Skudlarek has extensive formal training in the HVAC field and field experience. He is an asset to the school, the community, the HVAC industry, and the students he serves."

The accreditation of the Minneapolis Community and Technical College program will open the door of opportunity to graduates. The United Association and the Mechanical Service Contractors of America can fast track the Minneapolis Community and Technical College graduates to a higher entry level as a result of their HVAC Excellence credentials. These jobs are available locally and nationally.

As one of the premier schools in the country, Minneapolis Community and Technical College will be listed on [www.5starcareers.com](http://www.5starcareers.com) the industry recruitment site.

The HVACR industry offers a large income potential, good benefits, abundant job opportunities, and much more. Minneapolis Community and Technical College is a public two-year college located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. Their commitment to excellence began in 1914 and continues to grow. To learn more about Minneapolis Community and Technical College and their nationally accredited HVAC program, call 612-659-6000 or visit <http://www.minneapolis.edu/>