



For Immediate Release

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Transportation Security Administration chooses Minneapolis Community and Technical College to provide Homeland Security education

Minneapolis—September 11, 2009—The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has chosen Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) to provide a higher education curriculum for airport security officers and other TSA personnel. The first enrollees will begin classes Sept. 21.

MCTC is one of four schools nationwide that is partnering with TSA to provide Transportation Security Officers the opportunity to work toward a TSA Homeland Security Certificate and/or an associate degree in Homeland Security. The other schools participating in the TSA Associates Program pilot include Northern Virginia Community College, Anne Arundel Community College and Alamo Community College District.

“After 9/11 happened, TSA had to move quickly to hire and train security officers at the nation’s airports,” said Irene Kovala, vice president of student and academic affairs. “Now they want to provide more professional training and development so that eventually all TSOs have an associate degree or higher. Once this educational model is perfected, TSA plans to implement it nationwide.”

Of the four participating colleges to pilot the project, MCTC is the only one that currently offers a Homeland Security Specialist applied science degree and Homeland Security certificates. “It was a natural fit for TSA to choose MCTC and to work with the nearly 1,000 TSOs at the St. Paul/Minneapolis International Airport,” said Mike McGee, dean of Academic Affairs at MCTC. “We’re pleased we were chosen for this important workforce development undertaking.”

McGee said about 90 percent of the nation’s TSO workforce does not have a college degree. Two groups of Transportation Security Officers have enrolled in MCTC’s Homeland Security program and will begin classes Sept. 21.

About Minneapolis Community and Technical College

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers students more than 80 liberal arts, technical and career programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 13,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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