



Minnesota  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Chancellor to visit MCTC**  
**Wednesday, June 4 at 3 pm**  
**to discuss presidential transition**

**Nominations or applications**  
**for interim president**  
**are due by Monday, June 9 at 12 noon**

May 27, 2013

To: Minneapolis Community and Technical College Community  
From: Steven Rosenstone   
Subject: Phil Davis Appointed Associate Vice Chancellor

As an incubator for innovation in partnership and collaboration among our 31 colleges and universities, the Campus Service Cooperative (CSC) is a tremendously important initiative. Under Colin Dougherty's leadership, the CSC has helped reduce operating costs and has found creative ways to better serve students, faculty and staff by streamlining and improving business processes and harnessing our collective purchasing power. The work of the CSC is critically important and must continue to develop over the years ahead. At this point in time, however, Colin has decided that now is the right time for him to move on to other challenges.

Colin's departure requires us to identify a new leader for the Campus Service Cooperative. To keep the CSC's momentum going, we need a proven leader who understands the mission of our colleges and universities, our culture and our commitment to innovation. With those criteria in mind, those of you who know Phil Davis, President of Minneapolis Community and Technical College, will not be surprised that he was the first person to whom I turned. And, I am delighted to announce that Phil has accepted my invitation to join my cabinet as associate vice chancellor and serve as the next managing director of the Campus Service Cooperative.

Phil is one of our most experienced campus leaders. With nearly 30 years of experience – most of them as president at MCTC – Phil not only understands who we are and whom we serve, but how to creatively and consistently deliver exceptional service to students and communities while at the same time carefully developing and stewarding our human and financial resources. Examples of the accomplishments at MCTC under his leadership include:

- **Commitment to access, retention and completion:** Phil and MCTC increased access to college for underrepresented students by establishing programs like the *Power of YOU*, which doubled the number of recent high school graduates who attend the college, and *Jump Start to College*, which helps high school students improve their college readiness.
- **Academic leadership:** During Phil's tenure, MCTC awarded over 19,000 degrees, diploma and certificates.

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- **Resources for students, faculty and staff:** Over the course of his presidency, Phil shepherded \$100 million in capital improvements to create state-of-the-art instructional and support facilities for students.
- **Educational and community partnerships:** Phil is well known for developing innovative partnerships between MCTC and its sister colleges as well as with business and community organizations.

Please join me in thanking Phil for his tremendous service as president and congratulating him on this new assignment.

As MCTC approaches its 100th year anniversary, Phil's departure from the college begins a new chapter in its history. To ensure a smooth transition of leadership at MCTC, Phil has agreed to take on the directorship of the CSC in addition to his presidential responsibilities through the end of August. He will devote his full energies to the CSC starting in September.

This presidential transition will be the first for MCTC (and its predecessor MCC) since 1997. I am mindful that Phil's long tenure means that most MCTC employees have never been through a presidential transition. Moreover, the need to have a new leader in place by the end of summer, combined with the fact that many faculty and students have summer commitments off campus and would likely not be able to participate in a search for a new president, means the timing is not right to appoint a permanent president. For these reasons, I believe that the appointment of an interim president makes the most sense.

**Attached is a call for nominations and expressions of interest for the interim presidency.** It is my hope to bring the Board of Trustees yet this summer my recommendation for an interim president who will start on September 2. **I plan to visit MCTC on Wednesday, June 4, from 3-5 pm**, to consult with students, faculty, staff and community leaders on the qualities critical in the interim president.

I want to hear from **all** voices. Knowing that summer means that many students and faculty members may not be on campus and available to meet with me on June 4, if you are unable to join me in person, I welcome you to contact me at [chancellor@so.mnscu.edu](mailto:chancellor@so.mnscu.edu).

What qualities should I look for in an interim president? The answer to that question is best shaped in conversation with you. I certainly have some initial thoughts to begin the discussion. In my thinking, the ideal interim president will be a person who:

- has the experience and qualifications to assume the presidency in less than 100 days; there cannot be a steep learning curve; and
- has a track record of working collaboratively with students, faculty and staff so he/she can keep the college moving carefully and steadily forward.

The right interim president must:

- act with integrity and honesty;
- be open, caring, fair and even-handed;

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- be willing to make tough decisions if they are called for;
- communicate broadly and authentically; and
- consult and work cooperatively with all constituencies and stakeholders.

These are just some of my initial thoughts, and I look forward to your counsel on the qualities you believe are critical to the success of the interim president and the continued success of MCTC – either during our time together on June 4 or via email.

**I also welcome your nominations of individuals I should consider for interim president. Please submit nominations (with full contact information of the nominee) or expressions of interest (with cover letter and CV) by noon on Monday, June 9, 2014.**

In my role as chancellor of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, there is no responsibility I take more seriously than identifying world class talent to serve as presidents of our institutions. I am committed to recommending to our Board of Trustees the best possible candidate to serve as interim president of Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Cc: Phil Davis

Attachment