



# MINNESOTA STATE

Board of Trustees

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME:** Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee

**DATE:** April 16, 2025

**TITLE:** Appointment of President for Northland Community & Technical College

☒ Action

☐ Review and Discussion

☒ *This item is required by policy*

### **PRESENTERS**

Scott Olson, Chancellor

### **PURPOSE**

A president for Northland Community & Technical College will be selected.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Shari Olson began serving as interim president of Northland Community & Technical College on July 1, 2024. In the fall of 2024, Chancellor Olson initiated a national search for the next president for the college. The executive search firm Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) was retained to assist with the recruitment of the position.

A search advisory committee was appointed. The members are:

- Colleen Kukowski, Bookstore Clerk (AFSCME)
- Brent Braga, EGF - MSCF President (MSCF)
- Linda Samuelson, TRF - NCTC Faculty Member (MSCF)
- Bubba Rockstad, EGF-IT (MAPE)
- Abdul Chamma, Director of Student Life & Athletics (MMA)
- Kalen Wiseth, Chief Financial Officer (Administrator)
- Stephanie LeDuc, Dean of Health, Public Services & Technical Programs (Administrator)
- Barry Wilfahrt, GF/EGF Chamber of Commerce (Community Member)
- Al Zola, American Crystal Sugar (Community Member)
- Sara Olson, TRF School District & Foundation Board (Community Member)
- Hashan Kodippilige, Student Senate (Student-EGF)
- Mitchell Christen, Student Senate (Student-TRF)

The following individuals provided support to the committee:

- Joy Bodin, Search Chair, President - Hennepin Technical College
- Becky Lindseth, Director of Human Resources, Northland Community & Technical College

The position was advertised nationally in a variety of higher education and diversity publications. At the same time, the search consultant initiated an aggressive recruitment campaign. There was a total of twenty-nine (29) applicants. From this pool, the search advisory committee selected ten (10) individuals for initial interviews and forwarded its assessment of the candidates to the chancellor. On the committee's recommendation, Chancellor Olson selected four (4) finalists to participate in the system office interviews. Their interviews were conducted by Chancellor Olson, members of the chancellor's cabinet, Trustees Grabowska, Moe and Tefer.

Reference and background checks were completed.

After careful consideration and review, the chancellor selected one candidate to recommend to the Board of Trustees for full approval.

At this time, Chancellor Olson recommends Shari Olson to be the President of Northland Community & Technical College.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of Chancellor Olson, appoints Shari Olson as President of Northland Community & Technical College, with the anticipated effective date of April 16, 2025 subject to the completion of an employment agreement. The board authorizes the chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the board and chair of the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee, to negotiate and execute an employment agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Personnel Plan for Administrators.

*Date Presented to the Workforce and Organizational Effectiveness Committee:* 04/16/25

*Date Presented to the Board of Trustees:* 04/16/25

*Date of Implementation:* 04/16/25