

NHED

Northeast Higher Education District

Member of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

A PRESIDENT'S STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2015 – 2018

- **Hibbing Community College**
- **Itasca Community College**
- **Mesabi Range College**
- **Rainy River Community College**
- **Vermilion Community College**



Northeast Higher Education District Vision

The NHED will enhance student access and learning options throughout the region and will focus on each member college's connection to the community.

Northeast Higher Education District Mission

The NHED will provide quality higher education to the communities throughout northeastern Minnesota by developing a regional structure that will preserve college autonomy, but will also align programs and services to better prepare residents for learning, employment, citizenship, and life.

The above vision and mission were articulated at the founding of NHED in 1999, and continue to provide NHED's overarching impetus. Strategic goals were formulated at that time, and updated during the period of Presidential transition in 2007. These goals highlighted four common themes:

1. Improving student access
2. Aligning with key regional partners
3. Developing and maintaining strong ties between colleges and their home communities
4. Identifying efficiencies across the District while maintaining educational excellence

These themes are still applicable to NHED's strategic course. However, shifting circumstances are creating fundamentally new challenges and opportunities. It is critical that the District responds decisively and with urgency. Within this context, the District's 2009 strategic planning process sought to identify the primary barriers to NHED's progress and frame a new set of strategies that address the barriers at their core. The resulting strategic action plan will guide the President's action through 2018.

Strategy 1: Increase student access through enhancement of diverse learning options

- Analyze academic and service needs of student to identify where and how programming and services should be delivered
- Continue to be responsive to the needs of employers
- Partner with nonprofits for non-academic student support
- Create intentional (2+2) four-year programming in high-demand areas
- Pursue community college baccalaureate degrees

Strategy 2: Align academic programs

- Develop and implement a model to align programs and courses for increased efficiency
- Partner with high schools to align competencies
- Identify and responsibly create high demand and “niche” programs in a collaborative model

Strategy 3: Innovate for a changing world

- Create innovation teams to advance learning environments and share best practices
- Create a District support model for students and educators in distance learning
- Provide training and development to use current and emerging technologies effectively
- Recruit and retain a highly-skilled, diversified workforce
- Lead continual improvement across the District to leverage the financial viability of all five colleges

Strategy 4: Promote a culture of collaboration

- Identify new efficiencies and opportunities across the District while maintaining educational excellence
- Expand shared services in the District while providing personal service for students, faculty, and staff
- Aggressively pursue new sources of revenue
- Expand professional development opportunities for faculty and staff
- Create opportunities to enhance relationships, build trust, and increase respect among faculty, staff, and administration

Strategy 5: Building the NHED Brand

- Encourage college strategic plans to complement NHED plan
- Strengthen and expand partnerships with business and industry, alumni, and private organizations
- Provide intentional marketing to strengthen the five colleges
- Build and promote the NHED brand both internally and externally while respecting the history and identity of each individual college