



Presidential Search Profile

Dakota County Technical College & Inver Hills Community College

   dctc.edu • inverhills.edu

DCTC and Inver Hills are equal opportunity educators and employers.
 This information is available in an alternate format by calling 651-450-3884
 or TTY/Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529..



MEMBERS OF MINNESOTA STATE

Colleges Overview

Since 1970, Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) and Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills), located just 10 miles apart, have played a vital role in workforce and economic development across the South Metro. Together, they have helped generations of students achieve their educational and career goals, creating opportunities that strengthen families and communities.



The colleges offer more than 100 academic and career programs, providing pathways to high-demand careers in as little as one to two years or seamless transfer opportunities to four-year institutions. By starting at DCTC or Inver Hills, transferring students can save thousands of dollars while pursuing a bachelor's degree.

Partnering With the Community & Industry

DCTC and Inver Hills are deeply connected to the communities they serve, working alongside employers, school districts, healthcare providers, and industry leaders to address workforce needs and expand educational opportunities. Examples include:

- **A partnership with Saint Paul Pipefitters Local 455** to deliver commercial HVAC training at the union's training center. Developed with support from a Johnson Controls grant, the program has achieved consistently strong student completion rates.
- **The launch of Minnesota's only Process Technology program** in fall 2026, preparing students for high-demand careers operating and maintaining the complex systems that power modern manufacturing. The program was developed in partnership with energy and agricultural industry leaders to meet critical workforce needs.
- **Collaborative healthcare and emergency response training** that brings together students, healthcare organizations, and public safety agencies for large-scale mass casualty simulations, strengthening emergency preparedness across the region.
- **Expanded early college opportunities** that bring college coursework directly to local high schools. Partnerships include

Proposed Merger



DCTC is pursuing a merger with Inver Hills, to become **Minnesota Valley College*** in the summer of 2027.

Benefits of the new college for students and our communities include:

- Over 100 programs to choose from.
- Greater access to courses, facilities, and services.
- Streamlined processes for students who take classes at both campuses.
- Combined expertise of faculty and staff.
- Simplified partnerships with K-12 schools, businesses, and community organizations.

* Pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission, Minnesota State Board of Trustees, and the U.S. Department of Education.



a full associate degree pathway at Stillwater and Burnsville High Schools, Emergency Medical Responder training at Simley and Farmington High Schools, and Nursing Assistant programs with Simley and Two Rivers High Schools. These programs help students earn college credits, accelerate degree completion, and reduce the overall cost of higher education.

- **Addressing a critical aerospace workforce shortage** as a core partner in the Minnesota Aerospace Skilled Technical Workforce (MnASTW) Hub, an initiative funded by a \$1.5 million grant from NASA.

Mission Statements

Learn, discover, and build a better future: DCTC is dedicated to education for employment and life-long growth.

Learn, discover, and build a better future: Inver Hills is dedicated to the power and promise of education.

Values

Student Centered: We recognize and build on students' strengths and perspectives. We support them in taking an active role in their learning and in navigating our college. We provide inclusive, high-quality, and timely services. We also design our services and programs with our diverse students' needs in mind.

Equity Minded: We take responsibility for creating an inclusive learning and working environment where our students and colleagues can thrive. We identify and address patterns of inequity, informed by a social and historical understanding of exclusionary practices in American higher education.

Community Engaged: We collaborate with employers, educational institutions, and community organizations to enhance our respective missions and strengthen our communities.



Accreditation

DCTC and Inver Hills are accredited by The Higher Learning Commission.

Living in the South Metro

DCTC and Inver Hills are situated in a region that brings together the energy and amenities of a major metropolitan area with the welcoming feel of South Metro communities. Minneapolis and Saint Paul offer a rich mix of arts, culture, dining, entertainment, and professional opportunities, while nearby neighborhoods provide parks, lakes, trails, recreation, and community events throughout the year.

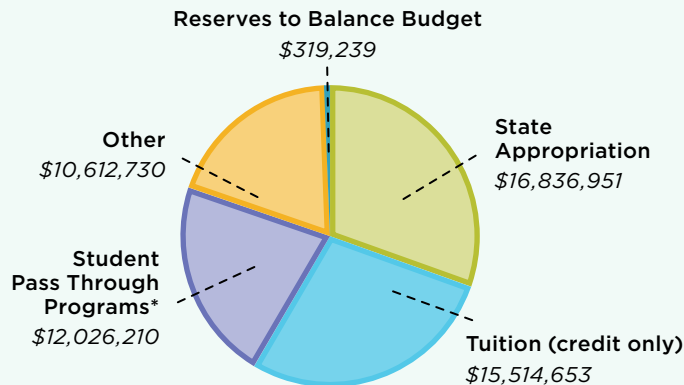
The South Metro area is a dynamic and increasingly diverse region, shaped by engaged communities, strong school districts, expanding businesses, and continued growth. Its blend of urban access, suburban convenience, and outdoor recreation offers an appealing quality of life for individuals and families.

For the next president, the region also presents an opportunity to make a meaningful impact. As communities and employers grow and workforce needs evolve, DCTC and Inver Hills can deepen their partnerships, expand opportunities for learners, and help shape the region's future.

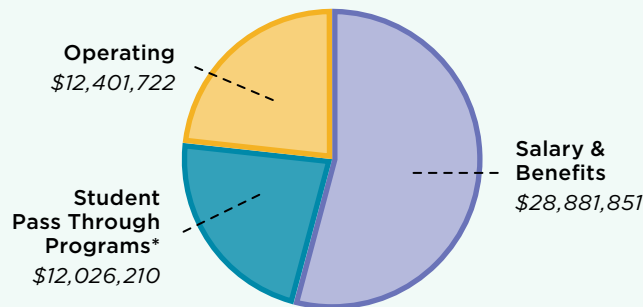


Budget & Economic Impact

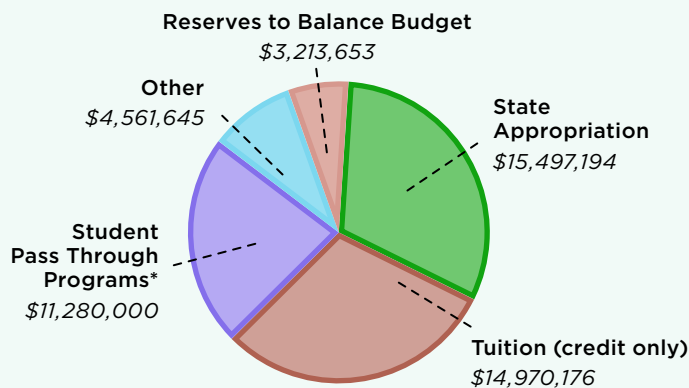
FY27 DCTC Total Revenues: \$55,309,783



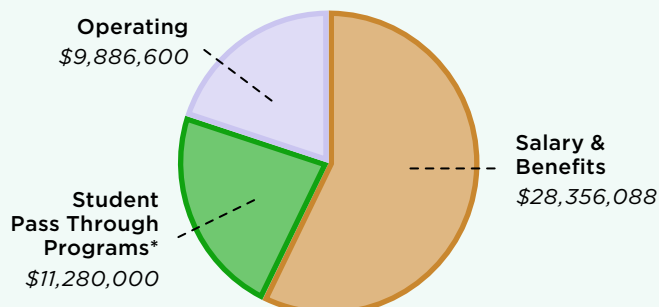
FY27 DCTC Total Expenses: \$55,309,783



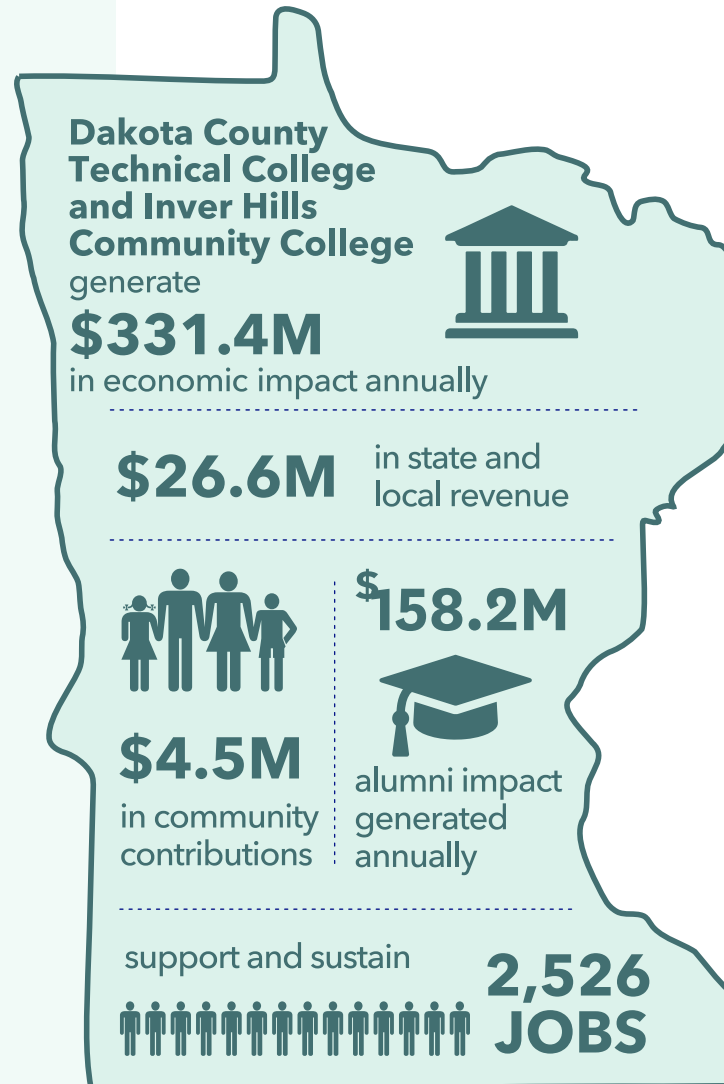
FY27 Inver Hills Total Revenues: \$49,522,668



FY27 Inver Hills Total Expenses: \$49,522,668



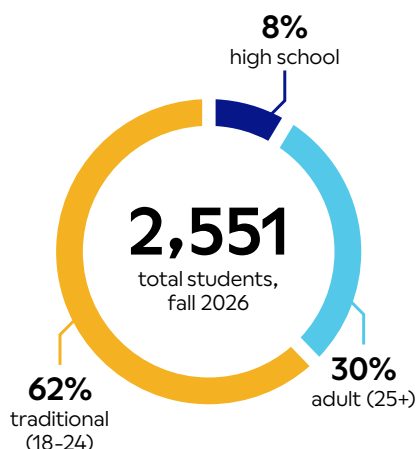
*Loans, Financial Aid, and Scholarships



This information is from a FY 2022 report.
The new report will be released in November 2026 and will be available at dctc.edu/go/presidential-search and inverhills.edu/presidential-search.

Student Success & Demographics

Dakota County Technical College



37%
students of color

53% are first generation students

55% are full time students (less than 12 credits)

83%  of graduates are employed in a field related to their degree

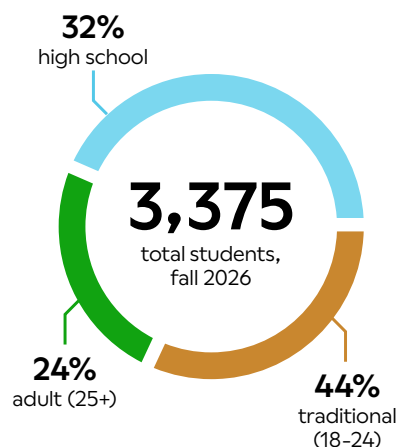
Intercollegiate Athletics goblueknights.com



MEN
soccer
basketball
baseball

WOMEN
soccer
volleyball
softball

Inver Hills Community College



46%
students of color

46% are first generation students

30% are full time students (less than 12 credits)

66%  of graduates are employed in a field related to their degree



In summer 2027, **Minnesota Valley College*** will be home to the **Riverhawks**. The merger allows for eligible students from both existing colleges to participate in athletics.

RIVER HAWKS 

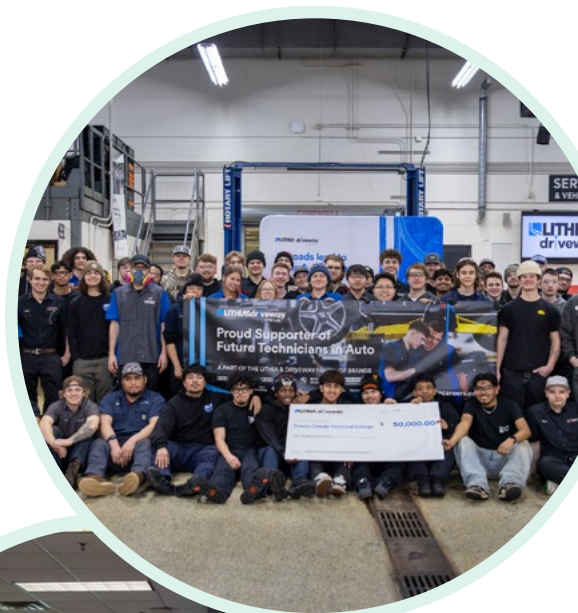
* Pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission, Minnesota State Board of Trustees, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Foundations

The Dakota County Technical College Foundation and Inver Hills Community College Foundation serve as critical strategic partners to the colleges, advancing student success and institutional priorities through philanthropy, community engagement, and partnership development. Together, the foundations steward **more than \$12 million in assets**, providing scholarships, emergency assistance, and other forms of direct support that help students overcome barriers and complete their educational goals.

The foundations also invest in initiatives that enhance the student experience and strengthen academic excellence by supporting program innovation, academic and workforce-focused programming, industry-relevant equipment and technology, and other strategic priorities that enrich learning both inside and outside the classroom. Through partnerships with employers, alumni, community organizations, and donors, the foundations help ensure students have access to the resources, experiences, and support needed to succeed in college and beyond.

The next president will have the opportunity to partner closely with foundation leadership and volunteer board members to expand philanthropic support, deepen community and industry partnerships, advance strategic initiatives, and secure transformational investments that strengthen both colleges and improve outcomes for students.





MINNESOTA STATE

Extraordinary Education. Exceptional Value.

About Minnesota State

At Minnesota State we provide the opportunity for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

With 26 community and technical colleges and seven state universities on 54 campuses, Minnesota State serves nearly two-thirds of the entire state's undergraduate student population, and we serve more Black, Indigenous, and students of color than all higher education providers in the state, combined.

Equity 2030

We are committed to equitable outcomes for all our students, and in 2019 committed to eliminating educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university by the year 2030. Achieving this goal, called Equity 2030, will ensure Minnesota has the workforce it needs for generations to come, and is both a moral and economic imperative, as our population continues to grow more diverse. We are working toward meeting our Equity 2030 goal through hard work, robust data analysis, programs to improve outcomes for all students, and partnerships with community organizations, employers, and the state legislature.

Our Employees

Minnesota State employs 14,400, most of whom are represented by one of several bargaining units and personnel plans. The bargaining units include:

- Inter Faculty Organization
- Minnesota State College Faculty
- Minnesota State University Association of Administrative and Service Faculty
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
- Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
- Minnesota Government Engineers Council
- Middle Management Association
- Minnesota Nurses Association

Governance

The 15-member Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities is appointed by the Governor and has policy responsibility for system planning, academic programs, fiscal management, personnel, admissions requirements, tuition and fees, and rules and regulations. Learn more on the Board of Trustees page at MinnState.edu/board.

Chancellor

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees, the chancellor is the executive officer of Minnesota State and is responsible for providing educational leadership to the 33 colleges and universities of Minnesota State, ensuring effective and efficient management and operation so that Minnesota State can meet the current and long-term educational and workforce development needs of all Minnesotans. Learn more on the Chancellor's Office page at MinnState.edu/system/chancellor.



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Extraordinary Facts

Minnesota State is making a difference. From the students we serve, to our business partners, to those we employ, chances are good you or someone you know has benefited from the work of your state colleges and universities.

- Minnesota State is the third largest system of state colleges and universities in the United States and the largest in the state with **26 colleges, 7 universities, and 54 campuses**
- We serve **290,000 students** each year, with more Black and Indigenous students, as well as students of color, attending our colleges and universities than all other higher education providers in Minnesota combined
- We offer the **lowest tuition in Minnesota**, with 55% of our college students and 59% of our university students receiving financial aid
- We **employ more than 14,400 dedicated faculty and staff** focused on student success
- We provide **nearly 4,000 academic programs**, including more than 1,000 fully online programs
- We have more than **12,000 customized and specialized training, occupational, and professional classes**
- We award more than **36,000 degrees, certificates, and diplomas** annually
- **More than 60% of Minnesota resident students** who are pursuing an undergraduate credential are doing so at a Minnesota State college or university
- **85% of Minnesota State students** take jobs in a related field of study
- We have **7,000+ employer partnerships** across Minnesota State colleges and universities
- Minnesota State contributes over **\$8.4 billion to the state's economy**

Leadership Profile

The Leadership Opportunity

DCTC and Inver Hills invite an inclusive, collaborative, and strategic leader to help shape their future as they move toward a proposed merger in summer 2027.*

The next president will join the colleges at a pivotal moment: bringing two institutions together around a shared identity, building on their distinct strengths, and serving students and the region in new ways. This is an opportunity to listen, learn, and work alongside students, employees, and community partners to create a college that is greater than the sum of its parts.

The future of DCTC and Inver Hills rests on a strong foundation: a student-centered culture, dedicated faculty and staff, meaningful community connections, and complementary strengths in technical education, liberal arts, and workforce preparation. The president will help turn that foundation into a clear, shared direction—moving the college from the proposed merger to shared purpose while honoring the people, programs, relationships, and histories already in place.

Success will require vision and care: imagining what the proposed college can become while making thoughtful decisions, even when choices are difficult. The president will communicate openly about the college's direction and decisions, ensure students and employees understand how their perspectives inform the work, and align resources, programs, and partnerships with the college's mission and the needs of the region. Above all, the president will keep student success at the center.

* Merger pending approval from the Higher Learning Commission, Minnesota State Board of Trustees, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Key Opportunities & Priorities

- **Build a shared identity and culture.** Bring the campuses together around a common purpose while preserving the distinct strengths, histories, and traditions of DCTC and Inver Hills.
- **Advance student success and belonging.** Sustain a welcoming, relationship-centered environment and strengthen the supports that help students with diverse backgrounds, goals, and needs persist and succeed.
- **Support a broad and connected academic mission.** Champion technical education, workforce preparation, liberal arts, and transfer pathways, helping students benefit from the full range of the colleges' offerings.
- **Strengthen enrollment and program relevance.** Work with faculty, staff, employers, and community partners to respond to student interests and workforce needs, including opportunities to expand high-demand programs.
- **Steward resources and support long-term sustainability.** Navigate budget and enrollment pressures, make evidence-informed choices, and communicate candidly about priorities and trade-offs.
- **Deepen community and workforce partnerships.** Build on relationships with employers, school districts, local governments, nonprofits, and other partners to expand opportunities for students and the region.

- **Strengthen the college's visibility and reputation.** Tell a clear, compelling story about Minnesota Valley College's value, student impact, and contribution to the community.
- **Promote access across the region and campuses.** Address practical barriers such as transportation, campus connections, and access to programs and services for students who may face challenges getting to campus.

Desired Leadership Attributes

The ideal candidate will bring a strong commitment to students and a genuine interest in learning the college's history, culture, and context. They will be an accessible, visible leader who seeks honest feedback, listens carefully, and follows through with action.

- **Collaborative and inclusive leadership:** Builds trust, brings people together across campuses and roles, and fosters a culture of belonging, shared responsibility, and accountability.
- **Clear, transparent communication:** Explains decisions and their implications with candor; adapts communication for students, employees, community partners, and other audiences.
- **Strategic and data-informed judgment:** Uses evidence to set priorities and guide decisions, while balancing analysis with the ability to act in a timely way.
- **Adaptability and resilience:** Leads constructively through change and uncertainty, remains open to feedback, and helps the college respond to evolving student and workforce needs.

- **Respect for the full mission of the college:** Values technical and community college education, liberal arts, faculty and staff contributions, and the distinct needs of both campuses.
- **Community-minded partnership:** Is comfortable representing the college in the region and building relationships with employers, school districts, community organizations, and philanthropic partners.
- **Self-awareness and sound judgment:** Recognizes personal strengths and areas for growth, manages competing demands, and leads difficult conversations and decisions with care.



Qualifications

The successful candidate will demonstrate most, if not all, of these qualifications:

- Strong leadership skills necessary to sustain the vision of DCTC and Inver Hills, carrying that forward into the proposed institution
- Progressively responsible experience in higher education administration
- Experience and leadership with shared governance, demonstrating a collegial and collaborative management style, including understanding and appreciation for a collective bargaining environment
- Experience in program and curriculum development, governmental relations, and accreditation process, as well as budget and fiscal management
- A record of actions reflecting concern for the success and well-being of students
- A record of building public/private partnerships between education and business and industry, community leaders, and organizations
- Demonstrated ability to lead in an innovative, data-driven environment and encourage out-of-the-box thinking
- Demonstrated experience in fundraising, donor cultivation, and institutional advancement, with a record of securing philanthropic support and building strong relationships with alumni, foundations, and community partners
- Ability to lead the campus in an authentic, collaborative, and transparent manner, with integrity and respect and a proven track record of being a visible, engaged, and accessible presence with students, alumni, community leaders, and friends

- Demonstrated experience advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Willingness to work with K-12 systems and other Minnesota State colleges and universities
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills effective with a broad range of audiences
- An earned doctorate is preferred but not required

How to Apply

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting Minnesota State in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. To ensure full consideration, applications materials should be received no later than **December 1, 2026**. The position will remain open until filled. The search will be conducted with a commitment of confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected.

Please submit full application packets [here](#). We strongly encourage submitting application materials as PDF attachments.

Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:

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