



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES


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To: Rochester Community and Technical College Community

From: Steven Rosenstone 

Re: Rochester Community and Technical College Presidential Search

I write to update you on the search for the next president of Rochester Community and Technical College. Despite best efforts, the search process has not yet identified a pool of candidates of sufficient quality from which to forward to the campus and eventually to recommend to the board for appointment. While we were optimistic that kicking off the search in January would allow enough time for a deep pool of experienced leaders to step forward, that did not happen. We have learned from the search firm that last fall's high profile internet and media campaign to oust the president deterred many prospective candidates.

While this news is disappointing, I am encouraged to know that the college has made tremendous progress over the past four months under the leadership of Interim President Joyce Helens. Joyce has shared with me that faculty, staff, student, and administrators are working together, laser-focused on serving students. It is exciting to see the widespread interest in moving forward together, on behalf of the college, its students, and the Rochester community. The good work you are doing will not only strengthen the college and the region, it will help us recruit an outstanding new president. What we have learned, however, is that more time is needed.

When Joyce accepted the appointment as interim president at RCTC in January, we assured the St. Cloud Technical and Community College that she was on short-term loan to Rochester. During Joyce's leave, SCTCC Chief Academic Officer Peg Shroyer graciously delayed her retirement to fill in as acting president of St. Cloud Technical and Community College. Both leaders have gone above and beyond to help out on a short-term basis; I intend to honor my promise to each of them that they will be able to return to their lives this summer. Therefore, Joyce will be returning to SCTCC as planned and RCTC will need new interim leadership.

Looking ahead, I invite expressions of interest and nominations for an interim president to start on July 1, 2016. (Details attached.) To allow the college more time to attract a gifted permanent leader, I may ask the board to consider appointing an interim for a two-year period.

My thanks to President Joyce Helens and the entire search committee for the dedication and determination with which they approached their assignment.

I have said repeatedly, formulating recommendations of individuals to serve as presidents is one of the most important duties of the chancellor, and I take this responsibility very seriously. While I am disappointed that the search will need to continue, I remain confident that we will find a gifted individual to lead RCTC.