



# DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU

December 27, 2023

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
ATTN: Tammy Reichelt

Dear Tammy,

This letter supports the nomination of Dr. Douglas Jensen to the Board of Directors for the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Jensen currently serves as the President of Bismarck State College and for the last few years, he has guided the institution through an important time of transition. For this reason and many others, he is highly deserving of this opportunity.

Several years ago, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education assigned a new mission to Bismarck State College. As the first and only polytechnic institution in North Dakota, the college has expanded its offerings to include much-needed Baccalaureate of Applied Science degrees. Curricular choices have been guided by the double-bottom-line philosophy of Dr. Jensen, where both mission and financials are considered in decision-making. Bismarck State College is now uniquely positioned to serve the state with a wide array of career-focused certificates and degrees.

As part of the North Dakota University System, Dr. Jensen has been proactive in serving both the community of Bismarck and the entire state of North Dakota. He has accepted a leadership role in the systemwide strategic planning process and is especially skillful in discussing what the Student of the Future may need. His focus on workforce issues is compelling and he has become a credible spokesperson on these topics.

Dr. Douglas Jensen is a future-focused leader. He is a colleague who is highly deserving of an opportunity to serve on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors, where he would bring energy, commitment, and expertise. His unique perspective would be beneficial to the organization. Thank you for providing this platform to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.,

Campus Dean and CEO

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Tammy Reichelt  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

December 23, 2023

Re: Board recommendation for Dr. Doug Jensen

Dear AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services;

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Dr. Doug Jensen, President of Bismarck State College, for a position on the Board of Directors at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Bismarck State College (BSC) has been and continues to be a leader among Community Colleges in the state of North Dakota and this region, and through the leadership of Dr. Jensen BSC continues to be at the forefront of policy, curriculum, and program development in meeting the workforce needs of the community, state, and region.

Dr. Jensen embodies the very mission and vision of the AACC. Having spent many years in multiple states in higher education leadership positions, Dr. Jensen is a strong, dedicated leader who promotes workforce development programs and forges strong business/industry relationships. Under his leadership BSC has launched several new and innovative programs. He is currently tasked with transforming BSC into North Dakota's first Polytechnic institution.

Dr. Jensen is fully committed to providing accessible, equitable, and high demand programs that provide the skill sets needed for Community College graduates to support their families and meet labor market needs. These experiences and expertise will be valuable as the AACC Board charts a path forward to addressing many of the educational challenges facing our country today and in the future.

I fully support the nomination of Dr. Doug Jensen to be a member of the AACC Board of Directors. Dr. Jensen's passion for the mission of Community Colleges, his commitment to students, and his experience in working with industry partners and appointed governmental officials will provide a valuable perspective on the Board.

Respectfully,



Doug Darling, Ph.D.  
President, Lake Region State College



Office of the President

December 21, 2023

AACC Committee on Directors and Membership Services  
c/o Tammy Reichelt  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

**AACC BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOR DR. DOUG JENSEN**

Dear Dr. Royal:

It is with great honor that I write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Doug Jensen, President of Bismarck State College (BSC), for a position on the Board of Directors at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

Through President Jensen's leadership, BSC serves as the leading community college within the North Dakota University System. Through his visionary lens, BSC continues to develop new programs for the ever-changing workforce needs of the community, the state, the region, and the country.

Dr. Jensen embodies the vision and mission of the AACC. Through his extensive experience in higher education, Dr. Jensen has developed a style of transformational leadership that promotes workforce development programs, builds collaborative educational partnerships, and forges strong business and industry relationships. Many of the new and innovative policies and programs he has initiated over the years have led to significant regional economic growth and educational opportunities for students. He is fully committed to providing accessible, affordable, and relevant programs that provide students with the skills needed to take advantage of career opportunities in an ever-changing business and industry environment. His level of experience and expertise will be invaluable as a board member for the AACC as you chart a path forward to address many of the difficult challenges facing our country.

In summary, I fully support the nomination of Dr. Doug Jensen to be a member of the AACC Board of Directors. He will provide a unique and valuable perspective to the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernell Hirning".

Bernell Hirning, PhD  
President-Williston State College