

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College welcome new equity and inclusion leader

ROSEMOUNT, Minn. – May 6, 2019 – Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College recently welcomed Michael Birchard as their first associate vice president of equity and inclusion. In this role, Birchard will develop and implement college-wide goals to ensure access and opportunity, eliminate barriers, and develop strategies to ensure all students have the opportunity for success.

“Equity and inclusion impact all aspects of our college communities and we strive for an environment that encourages excellence and innovation,” said Michael Berndt, interim president of Dakota County Technical College and Inver Hills Community College. “We believe that Michael Birchard’s extensive experience as a community organizer and his ability to create meaningful results will help us to focus on our commitment to equity, inclusion, and student success.”

Before joining DCTC and Inver Hills, Birchard served as the diversity and affirmative action officer at North Hennepin Community College since 2012. He previously served as an academic advisor at North Hennepin Community College and taught as an adjunct faculty member at North Hennepin Community College, St. Mary’s University and St. Cloud State University.

“Successfully building inclusive campuses and workplaces that benefit our entire community relies on the fundamental principle that human diversity is our strength,” said Birchard. “I am thrilled to join the Inver Hills and DCTC communities to incorporate equity and inclusion as a part of our standard decision-making processes as we strive for success in our educational programs.”

Birchard serves on the Minnesota Department of Human Services Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council, Minneapolis College American Indian Advisory Board, and International Institute for Caring Board of Directors. He has a master’s degree in social responsibility and a bachelor’s degree in American studies.

About Dakota County Technical College

[Dakota County Technical College](#) (DCTC) provides highly skilled and technical training for today’s most in-demand jobs. The DCTC community includes more than 2,200 full- and part-time students training in 55 different programs to boost their earning potential and launch or change their careers. DCTC was founded in 1970 and is located less than 20 miles south of Saint Paul in Rosemount, Minnesota.



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About Inver Hills Community College

[Inver Hills Community College](#) (Inver Hills) is a place where students can get an affordable, high-quality education to launch their college degree in a supportive environment. With an enrollment of more than 5,000 full- and part-time students, the Inver Hills experience is defined by small class sizes and an engaged and active community that prepares students to succeed at a four-year college or to enter the workforce. Founded in 1970, the campus is located in Inver Grove Heights, less than 10 miles from Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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