

Riverland Community College

Leadership History, 1940 to Present

Austin Junior College Est. 1940 (included vocational training classes)

1940 – 1967 Rueben I. Meland, College Dean

Austin State Junior College,

1967 – 1969 Rueben I. Meland, College Dean

1969 – 1970 Rueben I. Meland, President

1970 – 1974 Curtis C. Mac Donald, President

Austin Community College

1974 – 1976 Curtis C. Mac Donald, President

1976 – 1982 Arlan A. Burnmeister, President

1982 – 1984 James D. Flannery, Acting President, Dean of Instructional Services

1984 – 1990 James D. Flannery, President

1990 – 1992 Steven R. Wallace, President

1992 – 1996 Vicky R. Smith, President

Riverland Community College, Est. 1996

1996 – 1999 John J. Gedker, President

1999 – 2002 Gary L. Rhodes, President

2002 – 2003 James R. Davis, Interim President

2003 – Present Terrence Leas, President

Austin Area Vocational-Technical School Est. 1951 by Austin Board of Education as part of the Austin Public School system

1951 – 1957 Floyd J. Lueben, Director

1957 – 1972 Morton A. Carney, Director

Austin Area Vocational-Technical Institute

1972 – 1977 Morton A. Carney, Director

1977 – 1983 Donald C. Ingram, Director

1983 – 1986 Marjorie L. Kirchhoff, Director (first female Vocational Director in the state of MN)

Austin Technical Institute

1986 – 1989 Marjorie L. Kirchhoff, Director

Austin Technical College

1989 – 1991 Marjorie L. Kirchhoff, Director

Minnesota Riverland Technical College Est. 7/1/91 as a result of the merger of Austin Technical College, Faribault Technical College & Rochester Technical College.

1991 – 1995 Marlin Wacholz, President

1995 – 1996 Donald T. Olson, Interim President

Albert Lea Area Vocational-Technical Institute

1969 – 1984 Wayne V. Broecker, Director

1984 – 1989 Dave Sayre, Director

Albert Lea Technical College

1989 – 1992 Terry Lemer, President

Albert Lea/Mankato Technical College

1992 – 1993 Kenneth H. Mills, Regional President

South Central Technical College

1993 – 1996 Kenneth H. Mills, Regional President

Owatonna Extension Center (Austin State Junior College) Est. 1971

1971 – 1973 Frank W. Bridges, Director

Owatonna Technical Training Center Est. 1983

1983 – 1998 Larry Achterhoff, Custom Training Coordinator,
James Wagner, Facilities Manager, and
John Gedker, Adult Education/Custom Training Director

Owatonna Higher Education Center Est. 1998

1998 – 1999 Rick Casey, Vice President of Advancement

1999 – 2002 Steve Bowron, Dean of Riverland Training and Development

Owatonna College and University Center Est. 2002

2002 – 2008 Peter Scheffert, Academic Dean (Management Education)

2008 – 2010 Beth Fondell, Vice President of Finance & Facilities

Owatonna College and University Center Est. 2008 as the 54th MnSCU and 3rd Riverland campus

2010 – Present David Hietala, Academic Dean (Extended Learning)