

**Riverland Community College**  
**Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2004**  
**Presidential Evaluation for Terrence Leas**

The 2003–04 fiscal year was one full of frenzied activity as a new president in his first presidency struggled to learn his way around the institution, its three sites, and the state system. Despite the steep learning curve, the work was exhilarating because of the unselfish support from those at Riverland Community College, those in the communities the college serves, and those at the Office of the Chancellor. What follows are highlights from an exciting first year:

**Expand Postsecondary Participation**

- Total enrollment grew by nearly six percent from the previous year.
- The number of students in concurrent enrollment classes grew by 31 percent over the previous year.
- Enrollments at the Owatonna College & University Center increased 19 percent from the previous fall and 14 percent from the previous spring. Enrollments in Owatonna have increased more than 400 percent since 2001.

**Increase the Participation of Underserved Students**

- Enrollment of minority students grew from five percent of the total student population to eight percent. Including international students, the number of whom increased nearly fifty percent, the percentage of minority students grew to ten percent of the total student population.
- Efforts to diversify our employees stalled despite improved efforts to recruit minority employees.

**Increase Support for Higher Education**

- Riverland’s \$5.1-million capital bonding project to upgrade and expand its science labs took a detour when the Legislature failed to act on the capital bonding bill.

**Maintain Affordability**

- The Riverland Foundation raised more than \$66,000 in private donations from the three communities and from employees of the college. In addition, college officials raised more than \$40,000 in private donations and more than \$30,000 in grants.
- The Riverland Foundation awarded more than \$54,000 in student scholarships, an increase of 36 percent from the previous year.
- The Riverland Foundation awarded more than \$15,000 in grants to faculty and staff members, an increase of more than 300 percent from the previous year.

**Offer Electronic Learning Options**

- Work progressed satisfactorily in preparation for a fall 2004 HLC/MnSCU site visit for institutional change.
- Riverland Community College, Minnesota Southwest State University, COMET, and South Central Technical College collaborated to upgrade a distance education classroom on the Austin Campus into a \$70,000 “Tandberg” room.

**Serve as Good Stewards of Capital Assets**

- Riverland effected repairs and remodeling valued at more than \$3.5 million.

**Align the System’s Technology Infrastructure**

- Riverland will implement Desire2Learn fall semester.
- Technology Services installed a MATRIX integrated phone system at Albert Lea, Austin, and Owatonna on schedule. This project will save the college \$15,000 annually.