

WILSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mission and Vision Statements Approved by the Action of the Board of Trustees August 28, 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Wilson Community College, a public post-secondary comprehensive educational institution, is to provide accessible, student-centered academic and personal enrichment opportunities to enhance lifelong learning through college transfer, technical, vocational, and adult education programs. The College embraces and is committed to the values of lifelong learning; community; sustainability; leadership; scholarship; accessibility and affordability; diversity and inclusiveness; research, assessment, and collaboration; and technology.

VISION STATEMENT

Wilson Community College is a venue for learning and provides innovative leadership in meeting the needs of the community. As supported by the Community College Laws of North Carolina, the mission of the College is to provide accessible, student-centered academic and personal enrichment opportunities to enhance lifelong learning through college transfer, technical, vocational, and adult education programs. The College's mission is *about student learning and how we can improve it*.

A commitment to shared values guides Wilson Community College. These values flow from the mission and vision of the College and influence the planning process by guiding decisions, shaping policies, and directing courses of action.

Value One: Lifelong Learning

Wilson Community College is committed to fostering opportunities for learning that continue for a lifetime. The College seeks to expand non-traditional instructional delivery methods, affording students more opportunities to advance their education. The College continues to explore new ways to encourage those in need of literacy education and involves industry leaders in program development to ensure students are prepared for an ever-changing workplace.

Lifelong learning empowers individuals to master skills necessary for success. Lifelong learning and the teaching models that support it have also been shown to promote societal openness, provide greater involvement in peaceful political discourse, and be a limiting factor in the gap that separates the world's haves and have-nots.

Lifelong learning and innovations in teaching are inextricably linked; this new style of meeting the willing learners where they are facilitates opportunities and removes barriers to the educational process. Innovations in teaching provide exposure to the skills that foster learning, including developing a mindset for inquiry, experimentation, and renewal.

Value Two: Community

Wilson Community College values the sense of community within the organization and also the community at large. The College regards itself as a family unit that provides support and encouragement. This creates a nurturing environment where students want to learn, where employees want to work, and where everyone feels respected and valued.

As a vital member of the larger community, the College acknowledges the importance of service and encourages employees to actively participate in the community. It supports an atmosphere of involvement in community activities and an attitude of giving to meet community needs.

Value Three: Sustainability

Wilson Community College embraces its role as a partner in meeting state, national, and global needs and is positioning itself as a leader in sustainability. Sustainability is an approach to life in which resources (environmental, economic, and social) are used to meet current needs while ensuring that future generations have those same resources to meet their needs. It strives to meet the needs for new and developing jobs addressing the issues of sustainability and promoting the stewardship of resources, the environment, and economic development.

Science and technology are driving forces of the future. Through the development of sustainable curricula and programs, the College's "growing green" philosophy is entering new and challenging fields to develop a knowledge base, essential skills, and actions to put theory into practice.

Sustainability awareness is promoted through the efforts of students, employees, and community leaders. The College studies economic and environmental issues that impact operations and engages in activities that are economically and environmentally sound. The College encourages the use of energy conservation, recycling, and the use of sustainable practices in the construction of facilities and maintenance of buildings and grounds. The College seeks to have sustainability as a factor in planning and decisions at all levels.

Value Four: Leadership

Wilson Community College is committed to developing a climate conducive to the flowering of effective leadership which envisions leaders as servants first, whose core focus is on the growth and development of those around them through a positive nurturing approach. Characteristics of a leader include professionalism, integrity, mutual respect, and responsibility.

Professionalism is manifested in attitude and behavior; not just knowing how to do one's job, but also demonstrating a willingness to learn, share, and cooperate.

The College's integrity is held in the highest regard. Through positive role modeling, the College promotes high ethical and moral standards, and endeavors to instill those principles in its employees and students.

Mutual respect is important in creating an atmosphere conducive to learning. The College benefits from a sense of respect for oneself and others. An atmosphere of respect is shared and encouraged between employees, students, and the community.

Each employee takes responsibility for their role in furthering the College's mission. Employees are proactive in maintaining a nurturing environment where student success is the primary focus.

Value Five: Scholarship

Wilson Community College values scholarship and is committed to providing professional and scholarly activities that support its mission. The College defines scholarship as knowledge acquired in a variety of ways, through research, practice, and teaching. Scholarship involves organizing information and knowledge into a logical framework that allows for clear and cohesive sharing. The College realizes it is the responsibility of all who pursue scholarship to recognize that the ultimate goal of knowledge is wisdom.

The College encourages scholarship through education, which enables faculty to be learned and current in their disciplines. Education involves not only the transmission of knowledge, but also the stimulation of active learning. Students are encouraged to become leaders and critical thinkers, who will be self-actualized to continue in the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.

The College also promotes the implementation of scholarship. This process connects learning across the disciplines in an integrative and inclusive manner. This cross-curricula approach is designed to bridge the gaps that sometimes occur when disciplines are treated as stand-alone entities.

The College recognizes that there are some dimensions of scholarship that are universal and apply to all employees such as conducting research, being knowledgeable in their areas of expertise, keeping abreast of developments in their field, and adhering to the highest standards of integrity in all aspects of their work.

Value Six: Accessibility and Affordability

Wilson Community College values accessible and affordable programs and services. The College embraces the open door philosophy, which allows easy access to its offerings. The relatively low cost of attending a community college helps to ensure that pursuing an education remains affordable.

The College remains accessible through the establishment of a welcoming environment, by providing appropriate support, respect, and appreciation for diverse needs. Through creative risk-taking and use of resources and services, the College becomes a venue for excellence in education and a model of accessibility.

Affordability makes an educational experience possible. Affordable programs and services provide access to higher education for people of all socio-economic levels, giving them the opportunity to improve their economic situation. These opportunities empower them to pursue their goals.

The College strives to maintain accessible and affordable education for all who desire it. Commitment to accessibility and affordability help make the College a preferred choice for higher education.

Value Seven: Diversity and Inclusiveness

Wilson Community College values diversity, those traits which make a person unique. The College relies on the abilities, talents, and leadership of its diverse members to fulfill its mission. This philosophy of inclusiveness strengthens the College.

Diversity can refer to gender, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, disability, socioeconomic status, or age, but can also reflect societal changes. The College can improve and prosper to become a successful center of learning by ensuring every person is valued and appreciated.

The College embraces diversity and inclusiveness as evidenced by the policies adopted by the Board of Trustees and procedures adopted by Administration. Further, the College strives to reflect diversity through its recruitment and retention activities. By doing so, the College empowers students and staff, harnesses potential, increases productivity and efficiency, and accomplishes its mission.

The College is committed to creating an environment of diversity and inclusiveness by respecting and appreciating individual differences. Within this environment, the College must treat all individuals equitably. This is accomplished by protecting individual rights and treating members with courtesy and respect with the intent of improving morale and preserving individuality. The College and the larger community benefit from the results of a diverse and inclusive atmosphere.

Value Eight: Research, Assessment, and Collaboration

Wilson Community College values research, assessment, and collaboration expressed through a proactive sharing and cooperation.

Research contributes to the growth of human knowledge in both academic and nonacademic areas. Research can lead to new techniques, technologies, and methods of providing instruction and services. Employees are encouraged to continually research their practices to ensure that the mission of the College is met. The College supports employees by providing opportunities and means of investigation through professional development, seminars, conferences, and additional training. Free and open inquiry should be the first and foremost objective of all learning, no matter where the inquiry may lead. This is essential to producing well-informed, independent thinkers whether they are employees or students.

Assessment of programs and services generates data used to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. By using the results of systematic assessment, employees can determine what methods work best to carry out their responsibilities. Once data is collected and analyzed, action plans are developed to strengthen existing programs and services and to develop new ones. The College also embraces the concept of evaluation and rewards. Employees are recognized for their accomplishments, creativity, and contributions to scholarship as they relate to the mission

of the College. The criteria for evaluation accommodate both the talents of the employees and the needs of the College. The criteria allow for changes in the personal and professional growth of employees over the course of their career.

Working with others through collaboration provides the foundation for investigation and assessment. Cross-curricula collaboration creates cohesive instructional programs. Campus wide collaboration enhances both programs and services to ensure the College fulfills its mission. In addition the College encourages employees to develop working relationships with the community and their colleagues across the state.

The College is a system that evolves to meet current and future needs. Growth and renewal enable the College to remain current, engaging, and relevant. Through research, assessment, and collaboration the College becomes an empowered community.

Value Nine: Technology

Wilson Community College values technology as a tool for enhancing instruction, expanding the availability of education, expediting employee tasks, and improving the local community. The College recognizes technology is advancing rapidly and is used in almost every aspect of daily living.

The College incorporates technology as a method of enhancing instruction. Students, regardless of curricula, are exposed to emerging technologies that can enhance their daily lives and career paths. They are equipped with the knowledge they need to implement appropriate technologies in the community, thereby establishing a direct link between the classroom, the workforce, and personal enrichment.

The College expands the availability of education by employing modern technology for distance education programs. By utilizing interactive course management delivery systems, it is possible to use the full potential of technology as a means of instruction. The use of distance education makes it possible for the College to provide students from around the world an opportunity to receive an education.

The College is committed to providing the most recent technology to its employees to ensure that the operations of the College are carried out efficiently. Access to new technologies allows employees the opportunity to grow and increases productivity, thus enhancing employee morale and the success of the College in fulfilling its mission.

The College provides the community access to technology, which they might not otherwise have. This reduces the digital divide and enables the community to learn and thrive in the emerging global economy.

Summary:

Commitment to these values allow Wilson Community College to provide accessible, student-centered academic and personal enrichment opportunities to enhance lifelong learning through college transfer, technical, vocational, and adult education programs