

<p>Academic Affairs Mission, Values, and Philosophy Statement</p>

Mission Statement

Our mission is to prepare students for successful employment, transfer, and life-long learning. We equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to succeed in their professional endeavors, and to lead in service to their communities.

Enduring Values

To achieve our mission, we pursue goals and activities within a framework of shared values which serve as a touchstone for our decision-making, and which form the foundation for assessment of our effectiveness in achieving our goals. We value:

- **Excellence** in all endeavors.
- **Evidence-based assessment** of progress towards goals.
- **Continuous improvement.**
- **Personal responsibility** for one's roles in the learning environment.
- **Recognition and reward** for outstanding accomplishments.
- **Partnerships** of varying types which advance goal achievement.
- **Effective use of technology** to support learning.

Educational Philosophy Statement

We believe that education...

- is key to the growth and development of the individual and the larger society.
- starts with a balanced and integrated general education that includes academic learning, social development, and exposure to new perspectives.
- prepares learners for an active role in society and gainful employment, while establishing the foundation for lifelong learning.

Educational goals are accomplished through...

- programs and curricula that are both current and relevant to our community and society.
- learning environments that are orderly, comfortable, safe, and well-equipped.
- flexible and varied instructional methods designed to maximize learning opportunities for our diverse students.
- the development of critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and life skills.
- tasks that challenge our students to think creatively and take risks as part of the learning process.
- empowerment of students to become self-directed learners.

Academic success begins when students...

- take responsibility for their education by actively participating in, and contributing to, the learning process.
- identify their own personal and professional goals and develop a plan to achieve those goals.
- demonstrate academic integrity, civility, and a respect for diversity.

Therefore we...

- mentor students and serve as role models for learning and excellence.
- are well prepared and current in our areas of expertise and bring excitement and enthusiasm to the teaching/learning process.
- continually assess student learning, striving to improve effectiveness of instruction.
- commit resources to create a supportive college environment.
- maintain high expectations, which encourage high student achievement.

As a college community, we commit to demonstrating this philosophy in our daily work.

Educational Philosophy Statement endorsed by the faculty February 2006

Mission and Values Statement endorsed by the faculty October 2010