A Summary of Cape Cod Community College’s Evolving Mission

The First CCCC catalog was dated 1961-63 and contained the following:

The Purpose of the College

Cape Cod Community College is based on the assumption that higher education in a democratic society is a public responsibility and its ultimate goal is to awaken the intellectual and spiritual capacities of the individual to the end that he may live a richer life, bring his maximum power to bear in his chosen career and apply an enlightened understanding to civic responsibilities.

Specific goals to provide:

- High quality, low cost education, for qualified students who wish to attend 2 year college close to home
- Liberal arts and pre-professional education for those who cannot afford more than 2 years away from home and who plan to transfer
- General, semi-professional and occupational tech education for students who do not intend to go beyond 2 years
- Maintain an intimate connection for specialized courses to know the desires of the student body and character of business and industry in our community
- Guidance for students to plan their education and vocational programs
- Continuing education for adults and to serve as an educational and cultural center for the community

In the 1964-65 catalog the same purpose and goals continue.

In 1966 one will find a similar purpose and goals but the phrases “in a democratic society” and “a public responsibility” are no longer present and “ultimate goal” was changed to “underlying goal” and changed the goal to awaken the “intellectual and spiritual capacities” to “awaken the intellect and spirit.”

Further changes in the goals included the wording “qualified students” was more specifically described as “qualified high school graduates.” Two other phrases were omitted “intimate connection” and also “cultural center.”

In the 1968-1969 catalog purpose statement “awaken intellect and spirit” had a qualifier added and now reads “help awaken”. A phrase was added, “to provide general, semi-professional and occupational technology education ‘and the liberal arts’ for students who do not intend to go beyond 2 years.”

For the first time it was mentioned that these were presented to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC.)

1970-1971 had no changes.
1978-1979 has a fairly significant change to opening statement.

Statement of Purpose and Goals

The purpose and goals of the college reflect a response to the collective and individual needs of the Cape Cod community. The faculty has committed the college to a comprehensive program of general and career oriented education that stresses quality, opportunity, diversity, and social responsibility. The professional staff manual states:

An underlying goal is to awaken the intellectual and spiritual capacities of the individual to the end that he may live a richer life, bring his maximum power to bear in his chosen career and apply an enlightened understanding to civic responsibilities.

The goals are the same except that the final goal now reads—“opportunity for continued education”

1981-87 The purpose statement and goals are essentially the same as above.

In 1988 – 1990 there is a completely new look!

Cape Cod Community College is a publicly supported, post-secondary institution offering many different programs and services to the people of the Cape Cod and Islands region, as well as southeastern Massachusetts. There are thirteen different areas of concentration within the Associate in Arts degree, as well as fifteen programs within the Associate in Science degree. The College is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

While fostering excellence and fostering opportunities to all citizens through high standards and an open-door admissions policy, the highly qualified faculty and staff provide a supportive, humanistic medium in which to learn.

Maintaining its commitment to excellence, the College carries out its duties as a leader by contributing richly to our region's intellectual, educational, cultural, environmental, and economic development, and will continue to do so.

The College aims to awaken individuals' abilities so that they may lead richer lives, do their best in their chosen career and be good citizens of their community and country. To those ends, within its charter, the College is open to individuals of all ages, as well as organizations, businesses, and public institutions. We serve:
• People who want two years of college, planning on transfer to four-year schools
• People who want career opportunities leading to degrees or certificates and employment in a chosen field
• People of all ages desiring enrichment of their personal, cultural, and recreational lives
• People who want or need study abroad, for personal, educational, or business reasons, through the College Consortium of International Studies, of which the College is a member;
• Companies, agencies and community groups needing help in offering their employees or members educational, personal enrichment, and community development services;
• Those who need improvement in basic skills and/or literacy to ensure their successful attainment of their educational and career goals.

The success of the College has always depended upon its reputation for excellence among its audience, the people of the area. Thus, the College truly belongs to the people it serves and who support it and it must respond to individual and community needs. Therefore, in a very real sense, the community is our campus; the citizenry is our student body.

Institutional Goals

In achieving its mission, the College pledges to provide the human, physical, and fiscal resources to help each student attain a level of excellence consistent with his or her goals and abilities. To that end we pursue these goals:

• to provide our region with a learning milieu aimed at increasing student success and satisfaction;
• to offer university-parallel courses leading to the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees for those wishing to transfer to four year schools;
• to provide assessment of basic skills, remedial and developmental services, enabling students better to attain their personal goals;
• to provide area employers with well-prepared people, graduates of A.A./A.S. or certificate programs, and with work experience through Cooperative Education, who can perform successfully in the business world;
• to offer a broad range of support services for the student, such as financial aid, job placement, counseling, campus activities, veterans services, health services, athletics, career planning and placement - all of which may help the student function effectively and succeed at his or her goals;
• to offer Continuing Education programs which will not only enhance employee skills but also provide for people of all ages a broad spectrum of courses;
• as an outcome of our efforts, to provide the community with more knowledgeable, motivated and effective citizens;
• to provide multiple opportunities for foreign study and travel;
• to provide, consistent with the area’s economic and development needs, high-quality training and support services to business and industry;
• to continue to provide conditions and incentives to attract, retain, and motivate a faculty and staff equal to achieving our mission and goals;
• to make available facilities and support for occupational, educational, cultural, and community Interest groups;
• to share fully in the life of the community, helping to identify opportunities and solutions to community problems;
• to obtain the resources needed to support these goals, and to get the most from our resources by developing appropriately-designed planning, management, and evaluation systems.
• to develop further public and governmental understanding to support our goals and programs, through skillful strategic marketing of our message.

1991 thru 1994 the above remained in place.

In 1995-1996 the new statement is called the Mission and Goals.
Cape Cod Community College aims to awaken your individual abilities so that you may lead a richer life, do your best in your chosen career and be an active and informed citizen in your community and country.

The specific goals are essentially the same except the following is added:

The college pledges to provide the human, physical and fiscal resources to help you attain a level of excellence consistent with your goals and abilities.

In 1998-1999 the mission section is divided into the Segmental Mission and the Focused Mission.
The Segmental Mission describes the general characteristics of community colleges in Massachusetts as identified by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. The focused mission addresses CCCC priority responses
to the unique geographic, economic and demographic circumstances of our service area.

**Focused Mission:**

*Cape Cod Community College is unique as the only comprehensive college in its service area which offers a strong liberal arts focus. Thus, its community leadership in education, the arts and technology is essential to its mission.*

Accordingly, the college works at being a student-centered learning community preparing our students for continuing rapid change and human diversity in a worldwide context. To do so, the College uses partnerships and outreach programs and stresses...then there is a bulleted list that shows a sample of our technical degree and certificate programs 2+2 opportunities and graduate programs offered here and distance learning for the islands etc.

From 2000 to the present the Institutional Mission Statement has remained the same as follows:

**Institutional Mission Statement**

Cape Cod Community College delivers educational programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the residents of Cape Cod, the Islands, and adjacent areas of Southeastern Massachusetts. As the sole comprehensive college on Cape Cod, it provides the only access to higher education for many residents.

The College is a student-centered learning community that prepares students for a rapidly changing and socially diverse global economy. To this end, it provides degrees in the liberal arts and sciences; career and technical degrees and certificates; and workforce education.

A strong liberal arts focus contributes (1) a foundation for transfer to baccalaureate programs; (2) general education that supports technical and career programs with communication and analytical competencies as well as broadly based liberal education; and (3) cultural opportunities for the region. Its career and technical programs support unique workforce and economic needs in such fields as the hospitality and tourism industry, healthcare, environmental technology, and business with particular emphasis on small business and information technology. These programs provide opportunities for immediate employment and for transfer to professional baccalaureate programs. In addition, the College provides both credit courses and non-credit customized training to meet continuing educational needs of employees and employers.
Priorities

- Developmental education and English for speakers of other languages to provide access to higher education for students who lack the skills necessary for success in collegiate programs.
- Liberal arts and sciences for transfer to a wide range of baccalaureate majors such as theater, visual arts, mass communications, psychology, education, mathematics, and scientific fields.
- Technical and occupational degrees and certificates in such fields as hospitality management, culinary arts, healthcare, environmental technology, business, and information technology.
- Workforce education that serves area employees and employers; supports economic development in the region; and meets the professional development needs of its own faculty and staff.
- Student services to support student access, development, success, retention and graduation.
- A campus climate that affirms the centrality of learning, welcomes multiple perspectives, celebrates the contributions of a diverse population, and promotes the values of open inquiry and mutual respect.
- Educational and service opportunities for a senior population that is double the proportion of national averages.
- Cultural experiences that enrich learning at the College and serve the broader community with such activities as performing arts events, fine arts exhibits, distinguished speakers, athletic and recreational programs, and international education.
- Library and information services that provide the only comprehensive collegiate learning resource of the region.
- Distance learning access for students of the islands and other remote areas as well as for those whose access to campus-based education is limited by personal circumstance.
- Partnerships with other institutions to bring baccalaureate and advanced degrees to the region.
- K-12 partnerships that promote articulation and support for college-bound students.
And in 2007 the current mission is deliberately short and simple:

The students’ education is the first priority at Cape Cod Community College. As a learning-centered community, we value the contributions of a diverse population, welcome open inquiry, and promote mutual respect. The College offers a strong educational foundation of critical and creative thinking, communication competency, and a global, multicultural perspective that prepares students for life and work in the 21st Century. Our liberal arts, sciences, and career programs provide educational pathways that serve the varied social, economic, and demographic characteristics of our community with a distinctive focus on sustainability. We honor our past, celebrate our present, and imagine our future.