I would like to urge the addition of the word "success" so that it reads, "At CCCC student success comes first." I think it is an important philosophical shift. Too often we have coddled our students and colluded with them not achieving all that they can. The change places academic success and all that rides with it up front.

Bob Ross

Love that you are going with less is more. You don’t know how much I hate trying to add anything as I am a huge proponent of less is more. I do feel however that the stress put on liberal arts education does a disservice to our career track programs. We have 21 credits in Liberal Arts for A.S degrees and 39+ credits that are career specific. In accounting we are trying hard to create a strong two year track into bookkeeper/accountant positions. I also think the dental hygiene, nursing and hospitality A.S. degrees would feel similarly. I am not a wordsmith but I feel that somehow we need to get an “and or as well as” statement to incorporate our career path offerings.

The College provides a strong liberal arts foundation of critical, creative thinking, communication competencies, and a global, multicultural perspective as well as career specific training that prepares students for life and work in the 21st Century.

Thank you, Juanita M. Sweet

Bravo! I like the new mission statement.

Mary Sicchio

Thank you for preparing such a concise statement. I would change communication competencies to communication competency. The former sounds to me like skills whereas the latter suggests a broader achievement more in line with the critical and creative thinking. Also, do you think some eyebrows will rise because there is no direct mention of career-based programs?

Peace,
LouiseDD

___X___ Yes, the mission statement is fine as is.

Skye Green

Not just fine, but wonderful!
Jim Kershner

Yes as is
Thank you
Catherine Etter

___x___ Yes, the mission statement is fine as is. Kathleen Warren

Cape Cod Community College is a learning-centered community that values the contributions of a diverse population, welcomes the expression of open inquiry, promotes mutual respect, and places student success as our primary goal. ......
Rosemary, where is the "career" education component? Our largest department, and most respected, is the nursing and health care?

Jim Miller

__X__ Yes, the mission statement is fine as is.

JOB WELL DONE!! Jane Heyerdahl

I like it very much. Karen Brennen

Rosemary,
Sounds more like a marketing campaign service announcement we would hear on the radio. than a professional college mission statement.
I am sure this will foster a lot of feedback and dialogue.
marcy

Perhaps change: ……our present, and ENVISION our future. That would be the only change I would make.
Kathy Andrews

Dear Rosemary,
I would make the following changes to avoid pronoun confusion and to maintain parallelism.
For the sake of communication, clarity is important.
Suzanne Penner

. . Cape Cod Community College is a learning-centered community that offers an excellent academic program, values the contributions . . .

Cape Cod Community College provides a strong liberal arts foundation of critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication competencies with a global outlook and a multicultural perspective that prepares students for life and work in the 21st century.

The seamless educational pathways and offerings take into account the varied academic, social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the region and the community.

Cape Cod Community College proudly honors the past, celebrates the present, and imagines the future.

Yes.
SKS

Rosemary,
I will be glad to and my quick response should have acknowledged that I respect that the committee did put their time and effort into drafting a statement that they felt was brief and
covered with emphasis the more political correct aspects they wanted included in the draft but something was lost in the process. Thanks for your leadership.

Marcy

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From: Dillon, Rosemary  
Sent: Tue 8/29/2006 9:23 AM  
To: Smith, Marcy  
Subject: RE: New Mission Statement

Thank you for your quick response. Please submit your suggestions for a professional mission statement.

Rosemary

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From: Smith, Marcy  
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 11:29 PM  
To: Dillon, Rosemary  
Subject: RE: New Mission Statement

Rosemary, 

Sounds more like a marketing campaign service announcement we would hear on the radio than a professional college mission statement. I am sure this will foster a lot of feedback and dialogue.

marcy

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Thank you for soliciting feedback on the mission statement.

I had a few comments/suggestions regarding the proposed new college mission statement. If you are interested in discussing them further, please let me know. I have taught Marketing for the past two years at 4C's. Interestingly, my students and I discuss the 4C's mission each semester during our class on company strategy. You are more than welcome to sit in on the discussion this semester.

First of all, I think it is wonderful that your group is trying to streamline the mission statement. I agree with the feedback that you have received stating that the current mission statement is too long. Many of the items in the existing mission statement are really more objectives and goals that follow from the mission. Developing a mission statement is an important and difficult job.

Obviously, it is difficult to comment on a mission statement without knowing what discussions have occurred regarding what the college hopes to be in the future. So please accept my comments from a business perspective of what makes an effective mission statement.

A mission statement should express what the organization hopes to accomplish in its larger environment. The proposed mission beginning is not focused enough on the basic customer need for an education. I think the college mission should start out discussing that CCCC "will provide high quality, affordable academic programs..." (or some words to that effect) Our ultimate mission is not to make students come first, "value" them, "welcome" them or "promote mutual respect." Education should be much more prominent in the mission statement.

The proposed mission statement is, in my perspective, much too broad. This mission statement, as written, could apply to any institution of higher learning. I think the mission statement should
more specifically identify CCCC's unique role within the Cape Cod/SE Massachusetts region. It should also identify CCCC's role within the Massachusetts education and community college system. One thing I did like about the existing mission statement is that the hierarchy of mission statements was very clear. Students easily understood where CCCC fit within the MA education system.

The proposed mission statement should also more specifically identify CCCC's distinctive competencies. Our knowledge of the local business market (such as tourism, hospitality, etc) make us unique in preparing students for employment opportunities in these industries.

Finally, I don't believe "We honor our past, celebrate our present, and imagine our future" , while noble, has any part of a mission statement. It sounds more like marketing spin.

Again, thank you for welcoming these suggestions.

Mary Agostinelli
Adjunct Professor

I would like to suggest the word "sustainable" after "global, sustainable, multicultural perspective"…? Mary Jane

Sounds great. Two possibilities that came to my mind as I read:

1) "seamless" sounds so perfect and possibly unrealistic. Could a more descriptive adjective be substituted, along the lines of "thoughtfully developed" but better, and

2) rather than "imagine" our future at the end, a more practical verb, such as "prepare for" our future.

I know you all have hashed and rehashed--it's just the last few days of time to give anything extra a thought. Next week, my mind will be totally absorbed by the Department of Language and Literature, I've no doubt.

Thanks for the opportunity,

Dianne Gregory

I like everything except for "seamless educational pathways and offerings."

Pants are seamless. Educational pathways probably are not.

I would simply eliminate the words "seamless" and "pathways" to read: "educational offerings"

Lisa Heller Boragine

Hello Rosemary,
Would you consider starting the statement with "Students come first at Cape Cod Community College." We might as well put "students" first in the statement.
"A learning-centered community, we value the contributions … welcome the expression…. And promote…"

Lore De Bower
PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT

At Cape Cod Community College, students come first. We are a learning-centered community that values the contributions of a diverse population, welcomes the expression of open inquiry, and promotes mutual respect. (1)

The College provides a strong liberal arts foundation of critical, creative thinking, communication competencies, and a global, multicultural perspective that prepares students for life and work in the 21st Century. Our seamless educational pathways (2) and offerings take into account the varied social, economic, and demographic characteristics of our region and the people we serve. We honor our past, celebrate our present, and imagine our future.

(1) I think the phrase "mutual respect" by itself is too vague. I know we want to be pithy, but a little more explanation might be useful to make this more meaningful, otherwise it just sounds like a tired cliche. Perhaps "mutual respect among our learning community and beyond"?

(2) I think "seamless educational pathways" is awkward. It sounds like a conveyor belt in an educational factory. Perhaps "seamlessly integrated" would be better?

So that is my two cents worth. No offense if you do not use my suggestions.

___Michael Strmiska 203-326-1832 mstrmiska@capecod.edu

Signature and contact information

Wonderful, you and the committee did a great job- thank you for all your efforts, Eileen
Eileen Kearns Redfield

Well done! I commend the entire committee. I like the tone of the statement and the content is brief, direct and yet friendly. Looking forward to putting the file statement to use.

Lisa J. Fedy

Dear Rosemary and Committee,

What a wonderful job you've done! My one question is about the word "seamless" in the second-to-last sentence. I'm not sure what it means in this context. I'm not sure if "flexible" expresses the group's intent, but to me, that would encompass a couple of related ideas: 1) that as our community changes, and as its educational needs change, our institution will be able to respond to those changes and 2) that we understand that our students will have very individual needs that we are able to meet. Please understand that I think that that statement is fine as it stands, so if you are inundated with suggestions for fine tuning, feel free to toss this one (and all the others). :) Kudos to you all!

Best,
Betsy Smith

Yes, well done! Jean

What is sustainability?

There may be as many definitions of sustainability and sustainable development as there are groups trying to define it. All the definitions have to do with: Living within the limits
Understanding the interconnections among economy, society, and environment
Equitable distribution of resources and opportunities

~Sustainable Measures, 2002

The consensus seems to be that “there is no there there.” As Provost Peter Bardaglio wrote in a welcome piece distributed during the orientation provided to new faculty joining Ithaca College, “Sustainability is not a product but rather an ongoing process with no endpoint.”

While sustainability is very real and the signs of our “positive growth” are everywhere on the Ithaca College campus, sustainability is not a “thing.” Sustainability is instead a continuous improvement process with no finish line; not a “what”, but a “how.”

The sustainability initiative at Ithaca College has utilized the Venn diagram (the overlapping circles) to convey what was described in 2000 by then Governor of Oregon, John Kitzhaber:

"Imagine if you will, three overlapping circles:
one representing environmental needs,
one representing economic needs,
and one representing community social needs.
The area where the circles overlap is the area of sustainability, the areas of livability – the area where all the threads of quality of life
come together. If we are to have it all, we must recognize that these three circles are not separate, unrelated entities.”

The activities that must be undertaken to achieve campus sustainability are similarly not separate, unrelated activities. We utilize the same overlapping circle imagery to convey our belief that the power of our campus sustainability initiative is the strong interlink between the separate and distinct aspects of the College: curriculum and research, campus operations, and communication and outreach within our campus community, to our surrounding region, to other institutions, and to the world at large.

If you’re still grappling with the meaning of sustainability – or sustainable development - here are some other definitions of sustainability that we like:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”


The Haudenosaunee Seventh Generation philosophy:

Chiefs are instructed that when they deliberate on the serious matters of the Council, they are to consider the impact of their decisions on the seventh generation into the future.

~ The website of the Haudenosaunee, comprised of the traditional leadership of the Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy: the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora Nations

“Sustainable communities foster commitment to place, promote vitality, build resilience to stress, act as stewards, and forge connections beyond the community.” ~ Northwest Policy Institute, Seattle, WA

What will become your definition of sustainability?

More to the point, what will be your actions to help move all of us farther down the path toward sustainability?