

WESTERN NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Western Community College Area Board of Governors' Policy

TITLE:	Philosophy, Role, Mission, Vision, and Values
DIVISION:	WCCA Board of Governors
CATEGORY:	
REFERENCE:	Nebraska Revised Statutes (NRS): §85-959, §85-960, §85-961, §85-962, §85-963, §85-964, §85-965, §85-1413, §85-1414
NUMBER:	BP-210
APPROVAL/DATE:	Julienne K. Walworth, President, WCCA Board of Governors Date: September 12, 2018

Purpose

The role and mission of the College, as a public, tax-supported entity, is to meet the educational, workforce, and cultural needs of the community it serves. The community college shall have, except in specified program areas authorized by statute and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, sole responsibility for the award of associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates comprised of courses at the associate-degree level or below and approved by the Commission pursuant to sections 85-1413 and 85-1414.

Western Nebraska Community College shall be a student-centered, open-access institution devoted to quality instruction and public service, providing a range of student services intended to promote the success of a diverse student population, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved in other educational settings.

The relationship between the College and other governmental agencies will clarify and preserve the College's commitment to a locally-governed community college, readily responsive to the community and its needs.

Philosophy

The College is a comprehensive community college committed to serving the residents of Western Nebraska with higher education and life-long learning opportunities. We—the faculty, staff, and Board—seek to provide leadership in education while responding to the identified needs of areas residents by providing high quality educational programs and support services that are accessible to all who can benefit from them.

In fulfilling our role and mission, we subscribe to the following philosophy:

- 1) Belief in the inherent right of every person to an opportunity for education commensurate with

the individual's potential and interest. We offer a comprehensive program which includes academic and technical courses as well as general education for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution or preparation for entry to the job market.

- 2) Responsibility for providing an environment that offers opportunities for developing quality in academic, technical, and vocational disciplines. We are committed to helping students clarify goals by improving skills and providing guidance, encouragement, and assistance in a positive atmosphere fostering personal growth and social responsibility.
- 3) Commitment to lifelong learning. We provide area businesses and industry with vocational training for skilled employment which encompasses in-service/pre-service training in addition to basic skills, continuing education, and avocational interests.
- 4) Awareness of the changing role of education. We are prepared to make adjustments in the curriculum and services to meet the diverse, unique needs of students.

Role and Mission*

The College, individually and collectively, shall provide the following instructional and service priorities:

- 1) **Applied Technology Education:** Including associate of applied science degrees (A.A.S.), diplomas, certificates, and course work to qualify individuals for entry into employment or to enable individuals to remain current, to upgrade skills, or to acquire new skills;
- 2) **Transfer Education:** Including liberal arts and sciences associate degrees (A.A. and A.S.) comprising course work which is comparable to the course work of the first two years of a bachelor's degree program and applied technology degrees comprising course work which may be applicable to the course work of the first two years of a bachelor's degree program;
- 3) **Academic Foundations Education:** Including remedial programs, developmental programs, adult basic education, general education development, English as a second language, and refresher courses;
- 4) **Adult Continuing Education:** Including career-related programs and services for professional certification or improvement;
- 5) **Economic and Community Development:** Including customized training programs developed for businesses and communities to meet needs such as occupational assessment, job training, and job upgrading and other programs and services that are within the scope of the college's expertise;
- 6) **Public Service:** Including avocational and personal development courses and activities not specifically identified in other priorities; and
- 7) **Applied Research:** Limited to the enhancement of the instructional programs, student achievement, institutional effectiveness, and public service activities or related to faculty professional development.

**LB 263 passed by Ninety-Third Legislature, Nebraska 1993.*

Mission Statement

WNCC assures learning opportunities for all—**enriching** lives, **invigorating** communities, **creating** futures.

Vision Statement

To positively impact the education and well-being of every student, employer, and community member in the Nebraska Panhandle region.

Institutional Statement of Values

The Board, faculty, and staff of the College commit to acting according to the following values, which are essential to maintaining the integrity and vitality of the College community. All citizens of the College community shall be treated with care and respect. The College is an environment where people are treated fairly and given equal opportunities.

Our Values

Lifelong Learning: At WNCC, student learning is our primary focus. This is accomplished through excellence in teaching for our students and ongoing professional development for our employees. We strive to help all of our stakeholders, both inside and outside the organization, continuously expand learning to improve their success.

Student and Community Service: We consider our students and community stakeholders as our constituents, and responding to their diverse needs is what we strive to accomplish. Student success and positive contributions to our communities is at the forefront of every WNCC activity.

Honesty, Integrity, and Transparency: We believe that academic and personal honesty are essential elements in WNCC's learning environment and that employees and students must at all times speak and act truthfully and with integrity. Information is accessible and decision-making is open and participative.

Collaboration and Communication: Recognizing that we do not stand alone and that our actions impact others, we resolve to actively listen, engage in conversation, build consensus, resolve conflict, and disseminate information in a timely fashion. We believe teamwork and participation leads to engaged employees and better decisions.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement: WNCC understand the importance of embracing change in order to stay current and relevant. Exploring creative strategies and solutions and utilizing new technologies, practices, and procedures is encourage for our employees as this better prepares our students for their success in pursuing their academic and career pathways.

Respect for All People and Perspectives: WNCC deeply cares about all of its stakeholders and believes that showing kindness, understanding, and a respect of the diversity of others are fundamental elements of our culture. Differences are accepted and appreciated, and everyone plays an important role in the college.

Revising this Policy

This Board Policy supersedes any prior WNCC policy, procedure, guideline or handbook on this subject matter.

Adoption Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number: May 3, 1963

Revision Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number: July 20, 1988 Item H(2)(a)
February 9, 1994 Item H(6)(a)
October 18, 2017 Item I(a), I(b), I(c), I(d)
September 12, 2018 Item J(1)(a)

Prior Policy Number: 805.0100.88, 805.0100.94, 805.0100.17

Sponsoring Division/Department: Board of Governors

Repeal Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number: 805.0200.98 Institutional Statement of Values
September 12, 2018: K(1)(c)(1) and K(1)(c)(2)