

October 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle Johnson, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Revised Mission Statements

Summary

Central Carolina Technical College and Spartanburg Technical College have each requested that the Commission approve a change to its mission statement. The changes were submitted in fulfillment of requirements for Performance Finding Indicator 1C, Approval of a Mission Statement. Summary explanations follow, with a staff recommendation at the end of the summary explanations. The mission statements, with changes shown, are attached at the end of the document.

Central Carolina Technical College

Central Carolina Technical College has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Central Carolina College Area Commission on July 21, 2005. The proposed change is being made to comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requirements.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the proposed changes are minor. The resulting statement is consistent with the technical college sector mission as defined in Act 359 of 1996.

The revised mission statement changes the sentences “Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive, public, two-year institution of higher education that serves primarily the region of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties in South Carolina.

The College confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates” to “Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive, public, two-year institution of higher education that is dedicated to fostering a positive environment of teaching and learning for faculty, staff, and students. The College serves primarily the region of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties in South Carolina and confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates” (changes underline).

Spartanburg Technical College

Spartanburg Technical College has requested that the Commission on Higher Education review and approve a revised mission statement for the institution. The revised statement was approved by the Spartanburg Technical College Area Commission on June 20, 2005. The proposed change is being made to comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requirements.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the single change is minor. The resulting statement is consistent with the technical college sector mission as defined in Act 359 of 1996.

The sole change to the mission statement is the addition of the phrase “Through excellence in teaching and learning” to the beginning of the sentence “The College promotes lifelong learning and helps students reach their personal and professional goals.”

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the revised mission statements for Central Carolina Technical College and for Spartanburg Technical College.

Current Statements With Changes Denoted

Central Carolina Technical College

Central Carolina Technical College is a comprehensive, public, two-year institution of higher education that is dedicated to fostering a positive environment of teaching and learning for faculty, staff, and students. The College serves primarily the region of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter counties in South Carolina and ~~The College~~ confers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. College programs and student support services provide citizens, businesses, industries, and communities with quality, affordable, accessible, customer-responsive post-secondary education through life-long learning and specialized training opportunities specifically designed to develop the foundation for personal growth, economic development, and an improved quality of life.

The College's vast array of associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs prepares students to enter the job market, to transfer to senior colleges and universities, and to achieve their professional and personal goals. Specifically, Central Carolina offers academic programs in business, the health sciences, public service, industrial and engineering technology, and the arts and sciences. Through its comprehensive programs and support services, the College annually serves over 4,500 credit students and 10,500 continuing education students in both traditional and non-traditional formats.

Vision

Central Carolina Technical College will be the first choice for exceptional, quality, affordable technical and comprehensive education, provided in an innovative, student-centered learning environment.

Values

Central Carolina Technical College recognizes the worth and potential of its students to have the ability to learn and reach their potential. It affirms the following values and beliefs in its attitudes and principles in providing its programs and services:

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

Role and Scope

In recognition of the importance of its role in enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life for all citizens, Central Carolina Technical College seeks to fulfill its mission through meeting the needs of its stakeholders as follows:

GRADUATES: The College is committed to graduating students who will be productive members of society with strong values and ethics; who will have employability skills, including oral and written communication skills, critical

thinking, problem solving, analytical, scientific and computational skills; who can utilize and adapt to new technology and accept and initiate change; and who have an appreciation for cultural diversity, are self-directed and self-disciplined, and have the ability to function cooperatively.

STUDENTS: The College seeks to provide for its students an affordable, quality post-secondary education while maintaining an open door admissions policy. Students will have the opportunity to succeed regardless of educational preparation through developmental programs and services as well as to pursue avocational and personal growth needs in an environment embracing rapidly changing technologies.

EMPLOYERS: The College is dedicated to providing employers with skilled work-ready employees and to serving as an avenue for on-going specialized training with access to the latest technologies and educational services so that existing and new employers will find the area attractive for their workforce.

COMMUNITY: The College seeks to serve the community by providing access to education wherever, whenever, and however necessary to meet community and individual needs for affordable education opportunities leading to an improved quality of life.

K-12 STUDENTS: The College will provide opportunities for K-12 students to experience career exploration and planning, have access to a seamless progression toward a career or higher education and have an opportunity to accelerate their learning for employability and/or advanced placement through faculty /staff collaboration.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: The College will endeavor to have a high utilization of resources through partnerships with other institutions who will be collaborative partners working to expand education programs while minimizing duplication.

Spartanburg Technical College

Vision

Spartanburg Technical College is the innovative leader in providing relevant, accessible, and affordable educational programs and services to support and improve the economic vitality of our service community.

Mission

Spartanburg Technical College is a public, suburban, two-year comprehensive, open-admission institution of higher education serving the citizens of the upstate counties of Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union in South Carolina. The College advances economic development of the region through programs, services and partnerships that address emerging and continuing employment needs in a rapidly changing global environment. Through excellence in teaching and learning, the College promotes lifelong learning and helps students reach their personal and professional goals.

Scope

Spartanburg Technical College implements its mission through programs, services and partnerships that include

- College-level credit programs—STC serves 5,000 to 7,500 credit students annually through programs leading to associate degrees, diplomas and certificates designed for direct job placement, as well as associate degrees designed for transfer to four-year colleges and universities.
- Continuing Education programs—STC delivers catalog and customized short-term courses to 15,000-20,000 students annually. Continuing Education provides professional and career advancement programs and courses to business, industry, health care and government agencies. The college also offers noncredit courses for personal enrichment.
- Developmental Education programs—STC readies unprepared students to enter a program of study through courses that build academic skills and self-confidence.
- Student Development programs—STC offers a wide variety of student support services to nurture students' academic, personal and professional growth.

Values

At Spartanburg Technical College, we believe in the worth of individuals and their potential for growth and development.

Values Pertaining to Students

We believe in

Encouraging students to reach their highest potential and to increase their self-esteem
Stressing students' responsibility in taking an active role in their own learning, growth and development

Fostering a caring environment appropriate for the personal and educational development of adult students

Helping students acquire a work ethic appropriate to their career choice

Promoting a desire for lifelong learning

Instilling a sense of college pride in students

Values Pertaining to Faculty and Staff

We believe in

Accomplishing the college mission through teamwork, effective communication, and personal accountability

Maintaining a climate of mutual trust and respect

Treating faculty and staff fairly

Giving employees personal responsibility for job performance

Developing professional potential of faculty and staff

Values Pertaining to Community

We believe in

Providing timely programs and services that meet the needs of students and area business and industry

Participating as a partner in the community's growth and development

Promoting interactive communication with the community to ascertain needs and distribute information about programs and services

Developing a continuum of educational opportunities by partnering with secondary and postsecondary institutions

Encouraging faculty and staff to serve as leaders and role models in the community

Being accountable to the community for effective use of resources