Commitment to Innovation

Strategic Initiatives for Tacoma Community College 2005-2010

“If you want to predict the future, invent it.”

Our Mission

Tacoma Community College shall provide quality educational programs in a dynamic learning environment. The College shall be accessible, comprehensive and flexible, and shall address the personal, professional and social needs of its diverse community.

Our Vision

Tacoma Community College is recognized as a spirited leader in emphasizing and documenting student learning. We are known for our commitment to innovation and excellence, our inclusive internal and external community, and our technology integration. We achieve this through the collective dedication and recognition of our college family.

Our Culture

As TCC contemplates the potential for change due to shifting external factors, we view identification of what is most valuable about the college as essential. TCC sustains itself and expands its capacity to contribute to society by identifying and appreciating the gifts, resources, talents and successes that comprise the college. As part of our planning process, college constituents were asked to describe the factors they experienced that give the college health and vitality and serve as the College’s positive core. Among the stakeholder groups was considerable agreement about the critical and positive core factors of Tacoma Community College:

Student success is the primary focus for faculty and staff.
The institution has a strong focus on learning that emphasizes staff and faculty development, student centeredness, and on the institution itself as a learning organization.
College employees are creative, diligent and successful in supporting student learning.
There is individual and team enthusiasm, commitment, hard work and a collective willingness to take risks and initiate change.
A hallmark of the college is collaborative work among college employees and programs, and community members and organizations.
The college develops cutting edge approaches to teaching and learning.
The college reaches out to new groups to serve needs as they emerge.
Career programs serve workers and business and industry to meet their needs.
Strong college and community partnerships serve students and community members and expand what can be achieved.
Emerging technology serves the college’s faculty, staff and students in their endeavors.
The college values beautiful grounds and facilities as a mark of our commitment to excellence.

**A Vision for Inventing TCC’s Future**

Tacoma Community College’s strategic plan builds on strengths discovered through past successes. We believe colleges evolve in the direction of the images we create based on the questions we ask. The strategic plan describes how a college will look in the future when operating at its best. Together with our mission and vision statements, the plan is a set of strategic initiatives for how the college will evolve. These strategic initiatives often overlap, building a foundation for teamwork and cooperation within TCC and enable unity of direction and goals.

**Strategic Initiatives**

**Learning**

At TCC, we are all lifelong learners. We progress and acquire skills, knowledge and understanding in an invigorating and technologically advanced learning environment. Together we engage in inquiry, construct meaning and develop connections that improve individual lives and promote social progress.

As a learning college we use creative, student-centered instructional and alternative delivery methodologies, and we respond to emerging and evolving student and community needs. TCC learners are equipped to be ethical decision makers who contribute culturally, economically and socially to the public good.

**Student Support**

TCC understands the range of students’ needs and goals and provides dynamic support systems to foster resilience and persistence. We develop students’ ability to navigate within the learning environment while helping students discover and achieve their potential.

TCC delivers support services that enhance student success, including realistic and complete assessment of learning needs and strengths. Quality advising and interdepartmental collaboration sustain students’ clearly defined educational and professional pathways, and support transition to and through TCC. Together with our community partners we create the opportunity for learner transformation.

**Diversity**

TCC values and promotes diversity. Using persistent and intentional recruitment strategies, TCC achieves a staff, faculty and student population that reflects the variety of cultures, learning styles, and life experiences of our larger community. TCC engages in college-wide efforts, including conversations,
mentoring, training opportunities and internal promotion to support a broad and meaningful diversity. Our innovative curriculum and community involvement engenders an open academic and professional pathway to expanded opportunities.

Our passion for diversity positions TCC as a conduit between neighborhood schools and global universities and businesses. TCC’s commitment to diversity makes the college a model for an excellent and rigorous open-door education which creates social justice and equality.

**Community**

TCC is a diverse, collaborative organization engaged in synergistic relationships with the broader community it serves. We cultivate student-focused strategic partnerships with K-12 districts, four-year institutions, and employers. The college seeks the community’s wisdom through active advisory committees, mentorship, service learning and real-world experiences for students, staff and faculty.

We present a welcoming face to our community through our accessible and attractive campus and reach out to our diverse communities through campus events and activities.

**Excellence and Innovation**

TCC holds the highest expectations for the institution, faculty, staff and students. We have high learning and performance standards and embolden students and staff to achieve them through effective professional and leadership development. TCC recognizes, celebrates, and rewards achievement in a climate that supports authenticity and reinforces trust and optimism.

We are creative, innovative, and inclusive in setting and achieving our goals and identifying new resources. The College nurtures cooperative interdepartmental work and encourages original ideas and contributions arising from individual passion and teamwork.

**Learning and Working Environment**

All of TCC’s sites are student-friendly facilities that are functional, safe and attractive learning and working environments. The college’s pleasant appearance reflects the college’s core values and the excellent quality of instruction. The College has the human, fiscal and technological resources to be a learning environment where people meet, create, collaborate, and socialize.

Our organizational and technological infrastructure utilizes efficient operational processes that effectively support an excellent learning, teaching and working environment.

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