DESCRIPTION

Three Rivers Community College Mission

Three Rivers Community College meets the diverse educational needs of the community by creating an environment that stimulates learning. The college provides quality educational opportunities that are affordable and accessible. Additionally, Three Rivers develops regional partnerships and initiatives that contribute to the educational, economic, and cultural growth of Southeastern Connecticut.

To accomplish its mission the college:

- provides a broad range of credit and non-credit liberal arts and sciences, career, technical, associate degree and certificate programs leading to transfer, employment, and lifelong learning;
- provides workforce-focused education and training;
- promotes student success through efficient and effective operations and services;
- promotes the use of technology to support teaching, learning, and services to students.

In fulfilling its mission, Three Rivers Community College assists individuals in developing:

- a capacity for critical thinking;
- the ability to communicate effectively;
- an appreciation of the sciences and humanities;
- an understanding of the technological nature of modern society.

APPRAISAL

The evolution of the current Three Rivers Community College mission took place over the last decade. Nine years ago Mohegan Community College and Thames Valley Technical College each had their own unique mission. The institutions did have a common goal to serve the higher education needs of southeastern Connecticut. In 1992 the institutions were merged and the college became Three Rivers Community-Technical College. A merged institutional mission statement was created to blend the common goals of the two colleges. Since the last NEASC visit, the college name was changed to Three Rivers Community College. The focus of the mission underwent similar changes to reflect the evolving college and community.

Reinforcing the “learner focused” mission was the goal of the Standard I committee when it began its work in January 2001. The first draft mission statement was released to the community through the governance body of the college in February. The new mission was subjected to individual, departmental, and divisional review. The Standard I committee utilized that feedback to prepare a second draft statement. That draft proceeded in a similar fashion to the first with feedback to the committee. In September, the second draft was amended and redistributed to the community for final approval. The governance body subsequently approved the mission statement with minor modification and the statement was forwarded to the President’s cabinet, receiving final approval on September 19, 2001.

The new mission statement is reflected in the work of the strategic planning committee, is demonstrated in the learning objectives and outcome measures of multiple curricular areas, and clearly articulated in the Student Service divisional goals.
Central to the success of our “learner focused” mission is the collocation of Three Rivers Community College. Collocation will allow all members of the college to work diligently on implementing the mission while enhancing morale. Maintaining two campuses has negatively impacted the college in areas of personnel, budget, and scheduling of classes. Also, the current college facilities are inadequate to fully meet the needs of the community. Outdated facilities affect faculty performance and student success due to crowded offices and classrooms, limited library and information resources, and insufficient cafeteria and student open space. Plans to expand and modernize the college were initiated ten years ago but have been stalled, restricting programs and services from offering new initiatives. Meeting the challenges of operating and maintaining two deficient campuses affects the morale and culture of the college, further impeding the complete realization of the mission.

**PROJECTION**
The mission statement will serve the planning process, helping guide decisions and discussions that will occur. All Divisions will continue to implement established goals reflecting the mission. The collocation of the campus will enhance the efficiency of the delivery of our mission to the community.