



**Wharton County
Junior College**

Proposed Agenda Item

Board of Trustees Meeting

Complete this form and submit it to the Office of the President by noon on Friday, 11 days prior to the Tuesday evening meeting of the Board of Trustees. If this form does not provide enough space, you may use an expanded version *as long as you follow the format specified below.*

Date of Board Meeting: 05/17/2018

Date of this Proposal: 05/01/2018

SUBJECT: Review and reaffirmation of the Wharton County Junior College Mission Statement

RECOMMENDATION: The Board of Trustees should review and reaffirm the WCJC Mission Statement to provide documentation for inclusion in the WCJC SACSCOC Focused Report.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE: A discrepancy regarding the date of most recent official approval of the WCJC Mission Statement was noted in the SACSCOC Off-Site Reaffirmation Report for Standard 3.1.1. Specifically, the Reaffirmation Committee noted that the statement “was last approved by the college Board of Trustees at the July 15, 2014 board meeting. [However,] The College states that its mission statement was reaffirmed by the WCJC Board of Trustees in 2017 but failed to provide evidence of the board action.” Although the mission statement was included as part of the Strategic Plan Refresh presentation reviewed by the Board of Trustees in March 2016, this did not constitute an official reaffirmation of the statement. To address the incongruence cited by the Off-Site Committee, it is recommended that a formal review and reaffirmation of the WCJC Mission Statement be conducted and approved by the Board of Trustees for reference in the WCJC Focused Report.

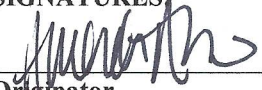
Estimated Cost and Budgetary Support (how will this be paid for?): Not applicable

RESOURCE PERSON(S) [name(s) and title(s)]:

Betty A. McCrohan, President

Amanda A. Allen, Vice President of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

SIGNATURES:



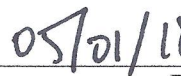
Originator



Date

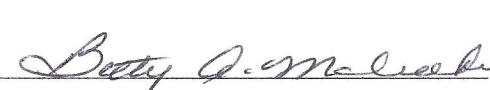


Cabinet-Level Supervisor



Date

PRESIDENT’S APPROVAL:







BOARD POLICY

REG No.001

WCJC MISSION

I. BACKGROUND and/or LEGAL REFERENCE

Education Code 130.0011; Education Code 130.003(e); 19 TAC 9.53, 9.54; Education Code 51.354; 19 TAC Ch.10, Subch.8.

A. Role and Mission

The College shall be a two-year institution primarily serving its local taxing district and service area and offering vocational, technical, and academic courses for certification or associate degrees. Continuing education, remedial and compensatory education consistent with open-admission policies, and programs of counseling and guidance shall be provided. The College shall insist on excellence in all academic areas—instruction, research, and public service. Faculty research, using the facilities provided for and consistent with the primary function of the College is encouraged. Funding for research should be from private sources, competitively acquired sources, local taxes, and other local revenue. *Education Code 130.0011*

B. Purpose

The purpose of the College District shall be to provide:

1. Technical programs up to two years in length leading to associate degrees or certificates.
2. Vocational programs leading directly to employment in semiskilled and skilled occupations.
3. Freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences.
4. Continuing adult education programs for occupational or cultural upgrading.
5. Compensatory education programs designed to fulfill the commitment of an admissions policy allowing the enrollment of disadvantaged students.
6. A continuing program of counseling and guidance designed to assist students in achieving their individual educational goals.
7. Work force development programs designed to meet local and statewide needs.
8. Adult literacy and other basic skills programs for adults.
9. Other purposes as may be prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, ("Coordinating Board") or the College District's Board in the best interest of post secondary education.

Education Code 130.003(e)

The College must develop a statement regarding the purpose, role, and mission of the College reflecting the three missions of higher education: teaching, research, and public service.

The College shall include in its role and mission statement the purpose of the College as prescribed under Texas Education Code 130.003(e), that it shall primarily serve its local taxing district and service area, offering vocational

technical and academic courses for certificates or associate degrees. Continuing education, remedial, and compensatory education consistent with open admission policies, and a program of counseling and guidance shall also be provided.

The College must publish its purpose, role, and mission statement in its official publication for students, generally the College catalog.

19 TAC 9.53, 9.54

C. Institutional Responsibility

In addition to specific responsibilities imposed by the Education Code or other law, the College has the general responsibility to serve the public and, within the College's role and mission, to:

1. Transmit culture through general education.
2. Extend knowledge.
3. Teach and train students for professions.
4. Provide for scientific, engineering, medical, and other academic research.
5. Protect intellectual exploration and academic freedom.
6. Strive for intellectual excellence.
7. Provide educational opportunity for all who can benefit from postsecondary education and training.
8. Provide continuing education opportunities.

Education Code 51.354

D. Institutional Effectiveness

All certificate and associate degree programs and institutional services and standards of operation must meet performance measures and standards as established by the Coordinating Board in consultation with an advisory committee appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education and comprised of representatives from public institutions having certificate and associate degree programs. The measures shall assess the following:

1. The College's overall quality and ability to produce desired results as outlined in Coordinating Board-approved measures and standards; and
2. The quality and ability to produce desired results as outlined in Coordinating Board-approved measures and standards of certificate and associate degree programs.

The College shall conduct self-evaluations of certificate and associate degree programs and College services and standards of operation through the use of an instrument and in a time frame determined by the Coordinating Board. The College shall submit a report of its self-evaluation to the Coordinating Board staff in a time period and format determined by the Coordinating Board.

The Commissioner shall certify to the proper officials the names of those colleges that have complied with the provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 10, Subchapter B, as well as other rules and regulations of the Coordinating Board.

Only colleges which are so certified shall be eligible for and may receive any appropriation made by the legislature to colleges as prescribed in Texas Education Code 130.003.

In the event of a finding of noncompliance, the College President, and the chair of the Board shall be given notice of any finding and the provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 10, Subchapter B that have been violated, if applicable. The College shall be given a time frame to make satisfactory adjustments. If satisfactory adjustments are not made within the time frame, the Commissioner may elect not to certify the College for purposes of state appropriations.

Approval of new certificate or associate degree programs shall be contingent upon the College's compliance with provisions of 19 TAC Chapter 10, Subchapter B.

19 TAC Ch. 10, Subch. B

II. POLICY

A. Statement of Institutional Mission

Wharton County Junior College is a public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of postsecondary educational programs and services including associate degrees, certificates, continuing-education courses, cultural affairs, and leisure-time activities for the benefit of the community and a population of students that varies in age, background, and ability.

The college affords opportunities for individual growth and expression and promotes the development of the total person through scholarly and creative activity and the application of knowledge for the good of society. Its curricular and co-curricular activities lay a foundation for lifelong learning and involved citizenship and encourage the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, experimentation, and excellence in human endeavor. It prepares students for entry-level positions, for advancement in various occupations and professions, for a broad understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, and for transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions.

In fulfilling its mission, the college:

1. Offers associate of arts, associate of arts in teaching, and associate of applied science degrees;
2. Offers transfer curricula in preparation for the baccalaureate degree;
3. Offers career/vocational curricula leading to certificates and associate degrees;
4. Offers remedial and developmental courses and services, as well as adult basic education, to assist under-prepared students to achieve competency in basic skills and thus gain access to college-level programs;
5. Supports excellence in instruction in all academic areas by the encouragement of faculty professional development for the improvement of teaching and learning through innovative teaching methodologies, research and public service;
6. Provides library and other instructional resources as integral parts of the educational process;
7. Supports students in the learning process through counseling and academic advising;
8. Offers continuing-education noncredit courses and programs to meet the needs of business, industry, government, and the community-at-large, and to contribute to the economic development of its service region;
9. Provides varied cultural opportunities, recreational activities, and community services to enhance

the quality of life in its service region;

- 10. Actively cooperates with school districts, vocational-technical schools, other colleges, and universities to promote a more productive educational environment within its service region;
- 11. Encourages the innovative and effective use of technology to increase and enrich educational opportunities for students and the community.

Wharton County Junior College is an institution that emphasizes personal attention to students, innovation and flexibility in its credit and noncredit offerings, and responsiveness to the diversity of communities it serves. The college is dedicated to providing an educational environment that recognizes individuality, stresses the importance of human relationships, and reflects the democratic values of our society.

B. Statement of Collegiate Purpose

Wharton County Junior College, a comprehensive public community college, is charged with the responsibility of providing quality educational opportunities primarily to students within its local taxing district and service area and to all other persons wishing to avail themselves of the services of the College. As a part of the Texas College and University System, the College must meet the diverse educational needs of its students by offering excellence, access, and economy in higher education. By providing a challenging and stimulating academic environment for persons of all ages, races, religions, and lifestyles, the College strives to meet its commitment to enhance personal growth and give adequate preparation for a lifelong role in society.

In short, the College defines its purpose for existence as that of providing an education of value.

C. Relations with Educational Accreditation Agencies

The District shall maintain accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

(POLICY APPROVAL: 7-1-82, Board of Trustees, 7-15-14 amended)

7-1-82
 Rev. 7-24-89
 Rev. 12-14-94
 Rev. 5-16-06
 Rev. 10-23-07
 Rev. 7-15-14