

Att. IV

CHE
10/7/2004
Agenda Item 4.02.D.



**Commission on
Higher Education**

October 7, 2004

Dr. Conrad D. Festa
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

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

Consideration of Mission Statement Revisions

Summary

Tri-County Technical College has requested that the Commission approve changes to its mission statement. Changes were submitted in fulfillment of requirements for Performance Finding Indicator 1C, Approval of a Mission Statement. Guidelines for Indicator 1C require that an approximate numerical value for the size of an institution be included in the mission statement. A summary explanation follows, with a staff recommendation for all requested changes at the end of the summary explanation. The mission statement, with changes shown, is attached at the end of the document.

Tri-County Technical College

Tri-County 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 Tri-County Technical College Area Board on August 2, 2004. The mission statement is attached at the end of the document.

Commission staff has reviewed the revised statement and found that the statement has been significantly edited for brevity and clarity. The revised statement meets the requirements of Indicator 1C.

Staff Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the revised mission statement for Tri-County Technical College.

REVISIONS TO THE MISSION AND VALUES

Tri-County Technical College, a member of the South Carolina Technical and Comprehensive Education System, is a public two-year community college dedicated to serving as a catalyst for the economic and lifelong development of the citizens, ~~associate degree awarding college. Tri-County Technical College seeks to contribute to the~~ economic growth and development of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties through outstanding programs and unparalleled service. ~~and of the State and to respond to the academic, training and public service needs of the~~ community through excellence in teaching. ~~The College has~~ An open admissions institution serving approximately 6,000 to 7,000 students, the College grants certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees in technical, career, and transfer programs. The College also offers certificates in continuing education programs. ~~policy and annually enrolls approximately 5,000 credit students. Tri-County Technical College provides opportunities for individuals with diverse backgrounds and ability levels to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment or enhancement of employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, business, health, or public service and for transfer to four-year colleges, universities, and other post secondary institutions. In addition to teaching technical skills, the College seeks to provide graduates with competency in written and oral communication, information processing, mathematics, problem solving, and interpersonal skills.~~

The College offers the following programs:

- ~~associate degrees in vocational, technical, and occupational areas and university transfer;~~
- ~~vocational, technical, and occupational diplomas and certificates;~~
- ~~developmental education and courses preparing individuals to take the General Education Development Test;~~
- ~~custom designed continuing education training programs for business and industry and facilities for the Center for Accelerated Technology Training program to prepare potential employees for new and expanding manufacturing companies;~~
- ~~lifelong learning programs; and~~
- ~~student development programs.~~

College Values

Tri-County Technical College pursues its mission based upon these fundamental values:

Learning: ~~The College is committed to addressing the diverse learning needs of the community.~~

Excellence: ~~The College is dedicated to excellence in instruction, support services, and management of human and fiscal resources.~~

Accessibility: ~~The College seeks to provide equal access to higher education to all individuals who desire to learn and is committed to responding to the needs of a diverse student body and community.~~

Relationships: ~~The College supports the importance of teamwork, communication, and the free exchange of ideas, both internally and externally.~~

Networking: ~~The College believes in community and in working with other educational systems, businesses, and industries to enhance economic growth and the quality of life for the people of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties.~~

At Tri-County Technical College, we value

Integrity—respect for the dignity, equality, and potential of self and others in personal and professional interactions

Responsibility—accountability in personal, professional, community, and fiscal affairs

Accessibility—equal opportunity to advance professionally and personally in a clean, safe, stimulating, and aesthetically pleasing environment

Collaboration—partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and community to promote open and effective communication, decision-making, and implementation of ideas and processes

Learning—facilitation of intellectual and technical growth through commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

August 4, 2004

Dr. T. Michael Raley
Academic Affairs and Licensing
SC Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Dr. Raley:

Please find enclosed the most recent mission statement for Tri-County Technical College, as approved by our Commission on August 2, 2004. This resubmission is a result of your e-mail dated July 21, 2004, informing us of the CHE staff requirement to add language regarding the size of the College.

I have been directed by our Commission to note that the updated statement is submitted under protest. It is the strong feeling of our Commission that reference to College size is inappropriate for inclusion in a mission statement. Such language is more appropriately part of an institution's strategic plan. Mission statements should be "timeless" as much as is possible. To include language referring to specific enrollment numbers, or even ranges, dictates a limited usefulness of that which should not be so bound.

I should note that it is not the intention of Tri-County Technical College to grow recklessly. Our desire is to fulfill our mission of serving the educational needs of our service area. Our size will be a factor of whether or not we are in fact accomplishing our mission.

I would be glad to discuss this further with you if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Booth", written over a horizontal line.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

RLB:ds

Enclosure

**NEW MISSION STATEMENT FOR TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPROVED BY COLLEGE BOARD ON 8/2/04**

TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE MISSION

Tri-County Technical College is a public, two-year community college dedicated to serving as a catalyst for the economic and lifelong development of the citizens of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties through outstanding programs and unparalleled service. An open admissions institution serving approximately 6,000 to 7,000 students, the College grants certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees in technical, career, and transfer programs. The College also offers certificates in continuing education programs.

TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE VALUES

At Tri-County Technical College, we value

Integrity—respect for the dignity, equality, and potential of self and others in personal and professional interactions

Responsibility—accountability in personal, professional, community, and fiscal affairs

Accessibility—equal opportunity to advance professionally and personally in a clean, safe, stimulating, and aesthetically pleasing environment

Collaboration—partnerships among students, faculty, staff, and community to promote open and effective communication, decision-making, and implementation of ideas and processes

Learning—facilitation of intellectual and technical growth through commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

**PREVIOUS MISSION STATEMENT FOR TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPROVED BY COLLEGE BOARD ON 12/4/01**

College Mission

Tri-County Technical College, a member of the South Carolina Technical and Comprehensive Education System, is a public two-year, associate-degree-awarding college. Tri-County Technical College seeks to contribute to the economic growth and development of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties and of the State and to respond to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching.

The College has an open admissions policy and annually enrolls approximately 5,000 credit students. Tri-County Technical College provides opportunities for individuals with diverse backgrounds and ability levels to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment or enhancement of employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, business, health, or public service and for transfer to four-year colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions. In addition to teaching technical skills, the College seeks to provide graduates with competency in written and oral communication, information processing, mathematics, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills.

The College offers the following programs:

- associate degrees in vocational, technical, and occupational areas and university transfer;
- vocational, technical, and occupational diplomas and certificates;
- developmental education and courses preparing individuals to take the General Education Development Test;
- custom-designed continuing education training programs for business and industry and facilities for the Center for Accelerated Technology Training program to prepare potential employees for new and expanding manufacturing companies;
- lifelong learning programs; and
- student development programs.

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Tri-County Technical College pursues its mission based upon these fundamental values:

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