

Engaging Tomorrow's Learner: *Ensuring Future Success*

Preamble: Forsyth Tech's *Strategic Direction 2010* creates a shared vision for the work to be done as the College enters its 50th year. It is based on the best thinking of and collaborative dialogue among members of the college community and the broader community it serves, enlightened by comprehensive assessment data. *Strategic Direction* will drive planning, decisionmaking, and assessment throughout the College, and commence a new era of progress and measured achievement for Forsyth Tech.

Strategic Initiatives: *Forsyth Tech supports the College's mission and values by focusing on the following strategic initiatives.*

Student Engagement

The College facilitates a culture of caring by providing effective services and enhancing relationships between students and the College that support student persistence and the achievement of personal and academic goals.

-GOALS.....
- Formal processes that enhance student success are utilized and promoted. This includes orientation, advising, and the transition between non-credit and credit programs.
- Interactions between students and faculty members, both in-class and out-of-class, strengthen student connections to the College.
- Students are actively involved in the College through service learning, student activities, and participation in College events.
- Methodologies for teaching and learning are innovative and flexible.
- The physical and virtual environment of the College is conducive to formal and informal learning.

Communication

Communications between students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community is clear, consistent, effective, and transparent.

-GOALS.....
- Technologies that enhance communications are utilized and promoted. This includes Techlink, e-mail, e-learning platforms, current under-utilized technologies, and future advancements.
- There are effective leaders and communicators throughout all levels and divisions of the College.
- Opportunities for faculty and staff to influence decision-making exist and resulting decisions are communicated effectively throughout the organization. This includes adjunct faculty and parttime staff.
- Targeted marketing to increase community awareness and advisory group participation to facilitate student learning result in success stories that are shared with the community.

Workforce Development

The College develops and promotes innovative and flexible programs that respond to community needs, changing technologies, economic trends, and emerging industries.

-GOALS.....
- The College identifies opportunities and implements programs for existing and emerging industries in local, regional, and international markets.
- Strong and continuous partnerships are developed and maintained with business, government, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations that facilitate community input and leverage resources.
- Credit and non-credit programs of study provide flexible opportunities for students to pursue an appropriate career path.
- The community sees the College as a valuable partner and a resource for high quality employees and entrepreneurs.
- The College partners with the community to make use of technologies to improve efficiencies, relationships, and educational opportunities.

Technology

Technology is used to enhance instruction, facilitate student success and employability, increase efficiency, and promote personal interactions.

-GOALS.....
- Green and sustainable technologies are incorporated into appropriate curricula, infrastructure, and operations.
- Current technology is accessible to students at all skill levels and integrated into programs to improve job and life skills.
- College employees utilize professional development opportunities to use technology effectively in their work, streamline processes, and create avenues for student and colleague interaction.
- Technology is appropriately distributed among divisions, programs, and offices in a clear and consistent manner.
- The College monitors the emergence of new and innovative technologies and applies in appropriate and targeted areas.

Resources & Funding

The College empowers employees to seek out funding sources, uses innovative strategies to obtain additional resources, and makes efficient use of current resources.

-GOALS.....
- The College and its affiliated Forsyth Tech Foundation aggressively pursues external funds to support the strategic goals of the College.
- The College leverages partnerships with business and industry clients, vendors, and other colleges and universities to address resource needs.
- Faculty and appropriate staff are encouraged and supported in a coordinated effort to pursue resources through grants and private fundraising.
- Knowledge generated at the College, including instructional and training expertise, is recognized as a resource that adds value to the College.

Forsyth Technical Community College
2100 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC 27103-5197

www.forsyhtech.edu
336.723.0371

ForsythTech

More Than You Know

The future of Forsyth Tech is in your hands.

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ForsythTech

More Than You Know

Values Core

In order to implement our mission, Forsyth Tech employees are guided by the following core values:

We hold high expectations of our students and are ceaselessly committed to helping them meet those expectations.

We are a learning organization that supports formal and informal learning opportunities for both ourselves and our students.

We recognize the impact of ongoing technological change on lives and learning and embrace this change in our college community.

We are committed to being a collaborative partner in making our community a better place to live.

We value a work environment characterized by mutual respect, and demand of ourselves the highest competence, trust and integrity.

We respect diversity in the college community – diversity of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation – and recognize that diversity includes varied learning styles, cultural and economic differences.

Mission Statement

Forsyth Technical Community College provides students with exceptional technical education and training as well as college transfer, adult basic education, and continuing and corporate education programs to develop a globally competitive workforce. The College responds to student, employer and community needs with innovative, flexible programs and service delivery.

From time to time it is valuable to take a completely fresh look at our strategic direction. The year 2009 was such a time. Forsyth Tech's enrollment was increasing dramatically, putting a strain on many of our resources. The ways and venues in which we deliver our programs were expanding. The people who were looking to Forsyth Tech for immediate job training and retaining were more numerous and diverse than ever before. Our corporate training people are assuming more of the on-site education and development required by businesses and non-profit agencies. And the deep recession has only emphasized the gap between the skills local workers have and the skills required in the shift from a manufacturing-based economy to a global, knowledge-based economy.

In this fast-moving environment, we need to be sure that we are meeting the needs of students, businesses and our community, quickly and effectively. We also need to be sure that we are using the resources we have as efficiently and productively as possible. During 2009, we involved the entire college community – students, staff, faculty and trustees – in looking at what we are doing well, what we could be doing better, what are the real priorities now, and what should be our goals for the next few years. Individuals expressed their ideas in surveys and focus groups. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and strategic themes that emerged were further refined at a two-day planning session that involved a cross-section of the college community and local business leaders.

The result of this inclusive process is what you have in your hands: a detailed set of goals, all linked to five major Strategic Initiatives that in turn are derived from our Mission Statement and Core Values. Specific tactics are being developed for each goal. This *Strategic Direction*, these goals, will guide us in how we do our work day to day. We will measure our progress all along the way. And this comprehensive plan will help to assure that our decisions and actions will all be focused on what is most important to our stakeholders.

From the President: Dr. Gary M. Green

