



Reaffirmation of the Mission

Cowley College is committed to providing opportunities for learning excellence, personal achievement, and community engagement.

An organization's mission state should clarify its purpose and communicate why it is doing what it does and who it serves.

Our accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission, places a great emphasis on the mission statement – the process used to develop it, how we articulate it publicly and most importantly, how it is the foundation for everything we do – from the people we serve to the academic programs we develop to the monies we spend.

As an open admission, publicly funded community college, our mission should differ from the four-year sector because we serve everyone – the high school students in our service area; nontraditional/adult learners; and community members. Because we offer multiple opportunities to multiple populations, our mission statement should not be too narrow, but rather it should state broadly what we do.

The College's current mission states: Cowley College is committed to providing opportunities for learning excellence, personal achievement, and community engagement.

It is my recommendation that the Board of Trustees reaffirm the College's mission for the following reasons:

- It is not too narrow – by not specifically listing types of stakeholders, we are not limited in who we serve
- It captures the essence of the open access spirit of a two-year institution when it states we are “committed to providing opportunities”
- It expresses our recognition that we are here to meet the needs of both students and community in a holistic manner by stating that we provide not only learning excellence through academic programming but also opportunities for personal achievement through participation in co-curricular activities such as student organizations and athletics and give our community the opportunity to engage through outreach activities like the Golden Tigers and workforce support.