

Davidson County Community College
Civic Action Plan
May 26, 2017

Davidson County Community College (DCCC) has been committed to the Davidson and Davie counties for over 50 years. The College's commitment to our community and our students shine through in our vision, mission, and values. We have developed mutually respectful relationships with various community partners and individuals in the realm of business, industry and education. These partnerships provide the framework to prepare our students for citizenship in a global society. Working on the Civic Action Plan provided the opportunity to research, evaluate and improve ongoing projects and connections and to consider new efforts and initiatives. The College's strategic plan outlines strategies and action items in support of the five Civic Action Plan commitment statements.

Our Vision

Davidson County Community College is a local and national leader that develops minds, inspires imaginations, and strengthens community.

Our Mission

Davidson County Community College provides innovative and equitable learning experiences to empower individuals, transform lives, and prepare students for enhanced career and educational opportunities within a changing global community.

Our Values

Values describe “what the institution stands for and the way in which it intends to conduct its activities. These are the characteristics we believe are important in *how* we do our work.”

- **Community** – caring about our students, each other, and the communities we serve and responding to their needs
- **Responsibility** – teaching, modeling, and cultivating an attitude of self-direction for ourselves and our students
- **Change** – embracing collaboration, adaptability, creativity, innovation, and risk-taking
- **Excellence** – committing to excellence in the programs and services we offer
- **Trust** – embodying honesty, integrity, and openness
- **Equity** – valuing diversity and promoting inclusive academic excellence
- **Passion** – pursuing our mission with purpose, joy, and fun

Strategic Plan Goals

Goal 1: Student Success through Completion

Davidson County Community College will cultivate and engage in culturally responsive practices that foster attainment of high-quality credentials that contribute to meaningful employment or successful transfer through the following strategic directions:

- Improve retention and decrease time to completion through efficient, guided pathways
- Support student success and accelerate completion through targeted initiatives
- Prepare students for success through participation in a comprehensive first-year experience with continued support through completion
- Develop, implement, and assess campus-wide professional development
- Partner with local and state agencies to meet workforce needs
- Utilize data strategically to improve practices in all areas

Goal 2: Excellence in Teaching and Learning

The College will support the pursuit of academic excellence and optimize student learning that promotes equitable outcomes among learners from diverse backgrounds through the following strategic directions:

- Utilize the results of learning outcomes assessment to improve teaching and learning
- Recognize and celebrate faculty and staff
- Recruit and retain a diverse faculty and staff
- Engage students in academic and co-curricular activities
- Implement customized learning supports that meet individual student needs
- Implement support practices to promote student learning
- Develop professional development opportunities to support innovation in teaching
- Implement a communications plan customized for targeted student populations
- Pursue alternate funding opportunities to support the strategic priorities of the College
- Practice and promote cultural competence

Goal 3: Local to Global Connections

The College will strengthen engagement and partnerships to support local economic development and enhance global awareness through the following strategic directions:

- Strengthen alignment of competencies and learning outcomes with industry needs through ongoing domestic and international business partnerships
- Enhance communications with local K-12 and regional higher education partners
- Respond to identified needs of our communities for well-trained and educated employees
- Increase career connections for students
- Expand programs, services, and partnerships to grow the Davie Campus
- Enhance the perception and overall brand awareness of the College
- Engage students in opportunities for global connectedness

The five commitment statements 1) co-create mutually respectful partnerships beyond campus and around the world; 2) engaged citizenship for public good; 3) responsibility to communities; 4) challenge the social and economic inequalities; and 5) foster an environment for the public purpose of higher education are woven throughout the fabric of Davidson County Community College.

The Civic Action Plan

Developing the Civic Action Plan allowed the college the opportunity to evaluate programming, policies, and processes, to consider the alignment of existing strategies and to initiate the implementation of new ideas to meet the five commitments of the plan. As a college we started by defining and evaluating community service, civic engagement and service learning and the role each plays on the campus. A team was assembled to: 1) assess what we were currently doing, 2) research what other institutions were doing in this area, and 3) implement a structured plan to ensure these activities were occurring on our campus and in our community regularly and strategically.

The Civic Action Plan evolved and the team has been charged with the implementation of new activities listed in the plan and making recommendations for improvement.

Our Team

The team membership includes:

- Chair – Keisha Jones, Dean, Student Engagement & Completion
- Datra Delk-Patrick – Assistant Professor, Nursing
- Julie Dillon – Faculty, Psychology
- Dr. Christy Forrest – Dean, School of General Studies & Academic Support
- Stephen Richards – Faculty, Business & Accounting
- Dr. Susan Scarboro – Faculty, English
- Helen Thomas – Professor, Early Childhood Education
- Lynne Watts – Director, Student Life & Leadership

DCCC's Commitment to the Commitments

In addition to the various strategies in the College's Strategic Plan, the following action items have been identified within the Civic Action Plan

Commitment #1 - We empower our students, faculty, staff, and community partners to co-create mutually respectful partnerships in pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus—nearby and around the world.

Creation of the Center for Service Learning, Community Service & Civic Engagement (New Activity)

- Develop framework for service learning on our campus
- Provide professional development for faculty
- Increase number of service learning courses made available to students
- Host various service in action events (i.e. MLK Challenge, Poverty Simulation)
- Provide Alternative Spring Break options

Engaging Community Partners (New Activity)

- Under the Center for Service Learning, Community Service, and Civic Engagement begin hosting community partner events each term.

Commitment #2 - We prepare our students for lives of engaged citizenship, with the motivation and capacity to deliberate, act, and lead in pursuit of the public good.

Student Engagement through Student Life, Service Learning & Community Service

- Student Government Association, including campus clubs participate in various community service projects on and off our campus.
- Opening of the Storm Food Pantry to provide assistance to faculty, staff and students who experience food insecurity. Student leaders volunteer to staff the pantry in pursuit of the public good.
- Accounting program requires upper level accounting students to complete service learning hours with the local Davidson County Tax Coalition working with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs. Students help citizens prepare income tax returns – free of charge.
- Student Life sponsors events for students to learn and participate in activities that raise their consciousness of public good (i.e. voter registration, Red Cross Blood Drive).
- Working with the local Habitat for Humanity, faculty, staff, and students will provide skilled labor for the development of container homes designed to provide housing for veterans without homes.

Creation of Student Engagement & Completion area under Student Affairs

- This brings together all aspects of Student Affairs that engage our students, assist in retaining them and finally those that push them to complete. Putting all of these areas under one umbrella allows for collaboration across the campus. The areas include – Academic Advising, Athletics & Wellness, Career Development, Counseling, Health and Disability Access Services, Minority Male Mentoring Program, Single Stop, Student Life, & TRIO.

Child Development Center

- This facility provides developmentally appropriate care and education for pre-school children while serving as a hands-on laboratory site for students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program and other College programs of study. The center offers students opportunities to learn about child development and the education of young children by observing and interacting with young children under the supervision of qualified teachers and staff. In addition, the Center serves as a resource for and collaborative partner with local child care providers and community agencies committed to enhancing the quality of care and education for young children.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

- The mission of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. The Honor Society regularly engages in service projects on campus and around the community to help students meet the needs of the community and build leadership skills.

Commitment #3 - We embrace our responsibilities as place-based institutions, contributing to the health and strength of our communities—economically, socially, environmentally, educationally, and politically.

Single Stop

- Links students to community resources to prevent them from stopping out due to non-academic issues.
- Provides free tax service, financial counseling and legal counseling to DCCC students
- Helps students access federal, local and state benefits for which they might be eligible
- Serves as a single point of contact for students needing emergency assistance during the semester.

Economic Development

- Job Location and Development (JLD) (*New Activity*) - program assists students with off-campus full and/or part-time employment experiences to increase self-knowledge, develop marketable skills, and provide a foundation for securing career options when entering the world of work. DCCC uses Federal Work-Study funds to partner with a local employer to provide a portion of the student's earnings
- Apprenticeship Summit (*New Activity*) - The Apprenticeship Summit will bring together representatives of agencies to help businesses fund and potentially staff apprenticeships. DCCC introduces how the college is best positioned to serve as a potential pipeline for talent and apprentices and how college programs align with local industries who could benefit from apprenticeship programs. This will help with employer hiring needs and address the local skills gap.
- DCCC Enrollment Bus (*New Activity*) - take the college “on the road” to the community and introduce the programs and services that “develop minds, inspire imaginations and strengthen communities.”

Special Programming

- Men Moving Mountains (3M) is a Student Success Initiative designed to assist underrepresented men in transitioning into college successfully. 3M connects male students, minority males specifically to resources, enhance their college experience, help navigate roadblocks, and provide additional support as needed.
- Student Support Services (SSS) is a program that provides support services to low-income students, first generation college students, and disabled students enrolled in postsecondary education programs. Eligible students may receive (among other services) personal and academic career counseling, career guidance, instruction, mentoring, and tutoring. The goal of SSS is to increase retention and graduation rates of its participants and help transfer students make the transition from one level of higher education to the next
- Talent Search (New Activity) is a free college planning and preparation program for first generation students with the potential to succeed in college but who may face barriers to obtaining higher education. The program is open to eligible students from Thomasville and Lexington City schools in grades six through twelve. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school, continue to college, and complete their postsecondary education. Talent Search is also open to eligible students in need of re-entry into secondary or postsecondary schools.
- International Education is an important aspect of the DCCC experience. Students, faculty, and staff are afforded opportunities to broaden their knowledge of other countries and cultures. The DCCC International Education program empowers students with awareness and knowledge of other countries and cultures, acquaints them with international and global problems, provides them the ability to work effectively in global or cross-cultural environments, and teaches an appreciation of diversity, respect, and concern for all peoples. In addition to sponsoring events and speakers on campus, International Education hosts study abroad opportunities for students, faculty, staff and community members. Students participating in International Education become “Global Scholars”.
- Student Life is exploring the requirements for the college to become a voter registration site for future federal, state and local elections.
- Constitution Day occurs each September. History faculty members organize a panel discussion focused on a social, political or economic topic to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States.
- Distinguished Speaker Series occurs several times during the academic year nationally know speakers are made available to the campus community. Speakers address a variety of social, economic, and political issues that serve to broaden horizons for faculty, staff and students.

Scholarship

- DCCC Advantage (New Activity) - is a scholarship to high school students in the Career and College Promise (CCP) program who plan to continue their enrollment at DCCC after graduation. Created to reward CCP students who demonstrate academic determination by taking college coursework in high school, the DCCC Advantage Scholarship provides eligible candidates tuition support within 12 credit hours after all other available grants and scholarships have been applied. The scholarship is available to all eligible students regardless of family income.

Small Business Center

- The mission of the Small Business Center is to increase the success rate and the number of viable small

businesses in North Carolina by providing high quality, readily accessible assistance to prospective and existing small business owners and their employees. The Center supports local business owners through workshops and other resources that engage business and local governmental agencies.

Commitment #4 - We harness the capacity of our institutions—through research, teaching, partnerships, and institutional practice - to challenge the prevailing social and economic inequalities that threaten our democratic future.

Partnerships

- Davidson County Health Department - provides an on-site nurse to answer questions and provide limited services to faculty, staff, and students who may or may not have health care
- Family Services of Davidson County - provides one on one and group counseling to students
- Career & College Promise (CCP) is a dual enrollment program allowing for college enrollment while a student is still in high school. CCP is available to any North Carolina high school student in grades 9-12 who meets the eligibility requirements. Students can choose from various College Transfer and Career and Technical Education pathways
- Early College High Schools - Davidson and Davie Early College High Schools are small high schools located on the Davidson and Davie campuses. Each Early College is a public school offering students who attend the opportunity to complete a high school education and an associate degree concurrently in four or five years
- Department of Social Services (New Activity) - Single Stop can screen and complete recertification paperwork for various benefits offered by this organization.
- Davidson Community in Action (New Activity) provides emergency assistance to students and the community. They will provide hours on our campus specifically to serve our students.
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (New Activity) is a partnership with Davidson County Tax Coalition to open a VITA site on the college campus which provides free tax services to DCCC students and the community.
- Davidson Works is a partnership of public and private resources that provides workforce development solutions for individuals and businesses. They assist job seekers with access to the resources they need to find employment. They provide valuable tools, services and support – at little to no cost – to employers and job seekers.

Research & Implementation of an Equity Agenda - (New Activity)

- Creation of an Equity Committee to begin looking at equity issues at the College
- All College Reads - Each year faculty and staff read a book that discusses a topic that addresses inequities of various groups. Panel presentations and discussion groups allow for exploration of the topic.
- Partner with DCCC Library to suggest purchase of research materials for interested campus or community members to support the equity agenda

Updated Strategic Plan

- The college's strategic plan includes language encouraging and supporting community engagement efforts of faculty, staff and students.

Commitment #5 - We foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education by setting high expectations for members of the campus community to contribute to their achievement.

Creation of standing college service learning, community service, and civic engagement committee (New Activity)

- Engage campus community in conversations around service learning, community service, and civic engagement
- Foster relationships with community partners
- Develop service learning, community service, and civic engagement programming

Recognize and Reward Campus Wide Participation

- Creation of Service Learning, Community Service & Civic Engagement Certificate (New Activity)
- Awards presented during the Student Awards banquet that reward faculty, staff and students for their involvement on campus

Coordinate, Collect Data, Assess, and Evaluate (New Activity)

- Conducted a service learning survey to gain knowledge from faculty regarding their perspective on service learning, ways to improve and challenges.
- Purchase software to collect data related to service learning, community service, civic engagement activities at the college

Implementation

We will identify the measurable outcomes, review the data and begin to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities. Various teams and committees have been or will be created to determine the measurable outcomes and initiate the implementation of the activities during the 2017- 2018 academic year.

Civic Action Plan Contact

Keisha Jones

Dean, Student Engagement & Completion

keisha_jones@davidsonccc.edu

336-249-8186 ext. 6359