



# WCCA Board of Governors' Policy

<b>Title:</b>	College Philosophy, Role, Mission, and Values
<b>Division:</b>	General Institutional
<b>Reference:</b>	Nebraska Revised Statutes: §85-959, §85-960, §85-961, §85-962, §85-963, §85-964, §85-965, §85-1413, and §85-1414
<b>Number:</b>	BP-210
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	May 17, 2023
<b>Approval:</b>	Lynne Klemke, President, WCCA Board of Governors

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The role and mission of the community college, as a public, tax-supported entity, is to meet the educational, workforce, and cultural needs of the community it serves. The community college shall have, except in specified program areas authorized by Nebraska statute and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, sole responsibility for the award of associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates comprised of courses at the associate-degree level or below and approved by the Commission pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes sections §85-1413 and §85-1414.

Western Nebraska Community College (hereafter referred to as the College) shall be a student-centered, open-access institution devoted to quality instruction and public service, providing a range of student services intended to promote the success of a diverse student population, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved in other educational settings.

The relationship between the College and other governmental agencies will clarify and preserve the College's commitment to a locally governed community college, readily responsive to the community and its needs.

## Philosophy

The College is a comprehensive community college committed to serving the residents of Western Nebraska with higher education and life-long learning opportunities. The faculty, staff, and Board of Governors seek to provide leadership in education while responding to the identified needs of area residents by providing high quality educational programs and support services that are accessible to all who can benefit from them.

In fulfilling their role and mission, the faculty, staff, and Board subscribe to the following philosophy:

- 1) Belief in the inherent right of every person to an opportunity for education commensurate with the individual's potential and interest. The College offers a comprehensive program which includes academic and technical courses as well as general education for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution or preparation for entry to the job market.
- 2) Responsibility for providing an environment that offers opportunities for developing quality in academic, technical, and vocational disciplines. The College is committed to helping students clarify goals by improving skills and providing guidance, encouragement, and assistance in a positive atmosphere fostering personal growth and social responsibility.
- 3) Commitment to lifelong learning. The College provides area businesses and industry with vocational training for skilled employment which encompasses in-service/pre-service training in addition to basic skills, continuing education, and avocational interests.
- 4) Awareness of the changing role of education. The College is prepared to adjust the curriculum and services to meet the diverse, unique needs of students.

### **Role and Mission\***

The College, individually and collectively, shall provide the following instructional and service priorities:

- 1) **Applied Technology Education:** Including associate of applied science degrees (A.A.S.), diplomas, certificates, and course work to qualify individuals for entry into employment or to enable individuals to remain current, to upgrade skills, or to acquire new skills.
- 2) **Transfer Education:** Including liberal arts and sciences associate degrees (A.A. and A.S.) comprising course work which is comparable to the course work of the first two years of a bachelor's degree program and applied technology degrees comprising course work which may be applicable to the course work of the first two years of a bachelor's degree program.
- 3) **Academic Foundations Education:** Including remedial programs, developmental programs, adult basic education, general education development, English as a second language, and refresher courses.
- 4) **Adult Continuing Education:** Including career-related programs and services for professional certification or improvement.
- 5) **Economic and Community Development:** Including customized training programs developed for businesses and communities to meet needs such as occupational assessment, job training, and job upgrading and other programs and services that are within the scope of the College's expertise.
- 6) **Public Service:** Including avocational and personal development courses and activities not specifically identified in other priorities.

- 7) **Applied Research:** Limited to the enhancement of the instructional programs, student achievement, institutional effectiveness, and public service activities or related to faculty professional development.

*\*LB 263 passed by Ninety-Third Legislature, Nebraska 1993.*

## **Institutional Statement of Values**

The College is committed to seven core institutional values which are essential to WNCC realizing its statutory role and mission and maintaining the integrity and vitality of the College community.

**Lifelong Learning** – The College provides opportunities for the continuing development and expansion of knowledge and skills for students of all ages, whether through enrollment at the College or training throughout the Nebraska Panhandle. This is accomplished, in part, through the College’s commitment to the continued personal and professional growth of its employees.

**Student and Community Service** – The College endeavors to build and maintain productive relationships with our students and communities. Our goal is to meet the needs of the students and communities we serve by creating educational environments in which students can attain their educational goals and communities can thrive.

**Student Success** – The College strives to create meaningful learning environments to support each student in developing and accomplishing their personal, educational, and career goals and to prepare them for a lifetime of learning and contribution to society.

**Honesty, Integrity, and Transparency** – The College is committed to honesty, integrity, and transparent behavior in all academic, personal, and professional endeavors. It is expected that all members of the community will speak and act with veracity and hold themselves accountable for their words and actions.

**Collaboration and Communication** – The College utilizes effective and timely communication to advocate for collaboration. The College is dedicated to working and communicating collegially, creating working, and learning environments which are conducive to the open exchange of ideas, mutual understanding, shared consensus, and an increased return on investment.

**Innovation and Continuous Improvement** – The College understands the importance of embracing change to stay current and relevant. It strives to infuse innovation into the campus culture and curriculum in pursuit of continuous improvement and excellence in education, projects, processes, and services.

**Respect for All People and Perspectives** – The College recognizes the inherent value of each member of the college community and seeks to create a diverse environment where the dignity of everyone is honored, and all members of the community are allowed to flourish and be their authentic selves.

## **Mission and Vision Statements**

The College shall adopt and maintain institutional mission and vision statements which will be reflected in the College's current strategic plan.

## **Revising this Policy**

This Board Policy supersedes any prior WNCC policy, procedure, guideline, or handbook on this subject matter.

If statutory provisions, regulatory guidance, or court interpretations change or conflict with this Board Policy, the Board retains the right to revise accordingly and for the changes to take effect immediately.

**Original Adoption Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number:** May 3, 1963

**Revision Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number:**

July 20, 1988 Item H(2)(a)

February 9, 1994 Item H(6)(a)

October 18, 2017 Item I(a), I(b), I(c), I(d)

September 12, 2018 Item J(1)(a)

May 17, 2023 Item H(3)(a)

**Prior Policy Number:**

805.0100.88

805.0100.94

805.0100.17

**Schedule for Review:**

**Divisions/Department Responsible for Review and Update:** President's Office

**Sponsoring Division/Department:** Board of Governors

**Repeal Date and Board of Governors' Minutes Item Number:**

805.0200.98 Institutional Statement of Values September 12, 2018: K(1)(c)(1) and K(1)(c)(2)

**Cross Reference:**

**Procedure(s) for Policy:**

**Related Policies/References:** Nebraska Revised Statutes (NRS): §85-959, §85-960, §85-961, §85-962, §85-963, §85-964, §85-965, §85-1413, §85-1414