The President’s Column on Student Success

As summer approaches, and we celebrate students’ graduation, it’s a great time to revisit our main strategic goal and the theme from the Spring In-Service activity. This year we focused on improving customer service, and how we all impact our students success.

As part of that work, and to continually enhance interdepartmental communication, we asked all of the departments to discuss what Student Success means to them, and How they are Making a Difference toward improving student success. This edition of NC Statement is a compilation of many of those comments, for your review and discussion.

Student Success Means...

Business Office

Student success to me means, students are achieving their goals or making progress toward their goals.

- Create a successful learning environment
- Show respect
- Be a resource
- Assist faculty and staff; work together as a team
- Provide quality service & customer service

Cashier’s Office

Student being financially prepared to attend college, maintaining open communications between college personnel and the students, and meeting their expectations.

We all play a part in student success!

- Helping students find a classroom
- Smile and say hello to students in the hallway
- Ask a student if they need help when they look lost

Financially prepared

- Informing students about the total costs of attending College both term costs and total degree costs
- Registering students last minute that have not completed the Financial Aid process without the expectation of payment

Communication with students

- Properly informed of financial implications of dropping classes
  - Faculty need to be aware of financial implications to students of recommending dropping and adding classes throughout the term
- Properly advising students on class schedule so that they are not taking classes outside of their major that have costs implications due to financial aid not covering those courses.
- Aware of payment deadlines

Expectations

- Realistic load for non-traditional students
- Course completion from all students
- Communication with students prior to and during a term is done via email

Facilities Management

In Facilities Department, serving our students is our Mission.

- The Facilities Department strives to provide a safe and secure learning and work environment for students, staff, faculty, and visitors
- Our Goal is to be a steward of the campus as we provide services in a proactive, responsive, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner.
- We are committed to achieving excellent customer service while embracing the increasing demands of a rapidly changing environment.

Making a Difference...
**Human Resources**

- It means . . . supporting the mission, vision and values of the College which in turn promotes the success of our students.
- It means . . . supporting the total operation of the College through our most valuable resource – our FACULTY and STAFF – which in turn promotes the success of our students.
- It means . . . assisting students in any way we can.

**Information Technology**

IT is engaged in Student Success by providing the technology platform and tools needed to promote student learning, growth, and Access to learning Resources.

NC State College’s Information Technology Department is dedicated to providing the best possible access to online resources:
- Building robust network and server environments to support student devices.
- Creating and maintaining a secure network environment to ensure integrity of all College business processes.
- Installing a new wireless network capable of handling student’s wireless access demands in a 21st century learning environment.

Our Information Technology Department continues to assess and implement new technologies to empower our students to be successful.
- Office 365 and its applications free to students.
- New high speed computers in computer labs.
- Spaces design with technology to foster a collaborative learning environment.
- Wireless access in all buildings.

**Financial Aid Office**

What am I doing about it?
- Attending college costs money. The Financial Aid Office (FAO) helps students obtain the funds to pay those costs.
- Obtaining financial aid can be a challenging process for students. The FAO helps students to successfully navigate that process.
- Federal aid can be used for a wide variety of college-related expenses, not just tuition. This enables students to afford the non-direct college costs such as books, supplies, and transportation.
- Part of the financial aid array is student loans. The FAO helps students to understand the obligations caused by borrowing and helps them to not borrow too much.
- Financial aid will only pay for required courses. This focuses students on taking the courses needed for graduation.
- Financial aid rules require students to make satisfactory academic progress toward earning a degree or aid-eligible certificate. This encourages students to be academically successful.

**Child Development Center (CDC)**

Student Success means Quality Early Childhood Education – so the student parents with young children can attain their educational goals knowing their children are in a quality early childhood environment.
### Student Success Means...

**Business, Industry, and Technology, Education, Professional and Public Services**

1. It means many different things so this question has many...many... parts. One item I will choose to speak about is the following: student success for NC State College means students are meeting/achieving the goals they have set for themselves.
2. Student Success means – students can get the degree, training, certification, class, etc that they need to improve their life situation. That may be to transfer to a different college, to improve at their current employment, to land a better employment position, or to simply improve their life skills. Students can do this with minimal "headaches" around scheduling, enrolling in the college, initial entry placement testing. Students can take classes when they want and how they want.

### Making a Difference...

1. I make each student in each course state a goal they want to achieve in the course. I personally work with them as they track their success in attaining their goal. If they need assistance, I provide that.
2. I often challenge my students to identify what THEY want to take away at the end of the semester. Sometimes it's self-improvement, sometimes it's better performance at a current job, sometimes it's a better job.
3. What am I doing about it? — I am attempting to offer classes when and how students want to take them. I am trying to keep a class schedule that minimizes drive time between buildings. I am trying to promote 4-year schools that our degree transfers into, so students do not lose any credits. I am trying to make sure our degrees teach the best, most relevant materials for students by administering a nation-wide exam that puts our graduates against others across the country.

### Health Sciences

- Semester to Semester Course Completion
- Year to Year Program Completion
- Graduation
- Passage of National Examinations (Where Appropriate)

### Liberal Arts

- Development of critical thinking skills - progressing one's thinking, not taking things at face value, being able to apply information learned to their own lives, etc.
- Personal growth and empowerment - enhancing one's abilities, realizing limitations and figuring out how to work with those seeking or accepting assistance
- Individual Accomplishments - this may be passing a class, writing a paper, contributing in class, giving a speech, obtaining a certain GPA, completing a degree, etc.
- Student learning, self-discovery, and personal and professional achievement are all very important foundations of success as well within any institution of learning. However, I believe the foundation of all of this can only be accomplished after a sense of engagement and connection are attained for the student. My goal here in relationship to helping attain this is to show every student a sense of genuine caring and an impression that I did everything possible during our time together to help the student as best I could in any particular instance.

### Urban Center and Outreach

- We contribute by creating an environment of excellence that inspires and encourages students to persevere.
- We create an atmosphere that honors students as human beings and inspires them to achieve.
- We embrace the fact that we exist for our students.
- We prove daily that our students matter above all else through unparalleled customer service.
- We respond to student needs and requests with urgency.
- We address any and all situations that negatively affect our students' experiences at the Urban Center.

### Crawford Success Center

- Empowering students to achieve their educational goals
- Providing education for everyone
- Engaging students in their community
- Creating a well-rounded college experience

- Tailoring course schedules to meet the needs of our non-traditional students
- Creating a welcoming and accessible environment
- Celebrating student achievement with student appreciation weeks
- Hosting philanthropic events that encourage student participation such as Make A Difference Day
Student Success Means...

Admissions, Student Success and Transition Services

- Student success is the reason we work in higher education.
- Student success means providing an enrollment, advising & educational experience that changes lives.
- Student success means removing barriers that may prevent students from getting higher education.
- Student success means providing clear and understandable information for students.
- Student success means completing developmental sequence courses and accomplishing goals they set for themselves. (that could be completing a course, certificate, improve GPA, or graduation)
- Student success means building meaningful advising relationships that empower students to persist semester-to-semester.
- Providing informative admissions and enrollment services; streamlining processes and student preparedness & understanding of appropriate enrollment steps.
- Providing clear information and processes for students.
- Providing the best customer service both on and off of campus.
- Success Coaches providing intrusive advising to ensure academic persistence and success.
- Strengthening career and testing readiness during enrollment, advising and orientation experience.
- Requiring that new and returning students attend Connect To College—mandatory student orientation program.
- Continuing to launch student’s Academic Planning & Registration— academic planning tools to create individual academic plans that guide students to completion.
- Reinforcing importance of DIRECTIONS advising program focusing on completion of developmental sequence courses. (all developmental students required to meet each semester with Success Coach)
- Advisor/Advisee assignment process — maintaining up to date advisor assignments that are key to advising hand-off’s and smooth advising transitions.
- Expanding use of College Student Inventory (CSI) for spring 2017 to include all students. (currently CSI used only with developmental/DIRECTIONS students)
- Enrollment Advisors & Success Coaches working in partnership with Academic Liaisons to promote and encourage student success by providing a customer friendly-positive — can do attitude with students we serve!

Marketing, Public Relations & Creative Services

- Keeping students and their families make informed decisions regarding their higher education choices

Foundation

- The North Central State College Foundation views student success as the student achieving their personal goal, no matter what that may be prior to leaving NCSC (Associate’s degree, transfer to four-year institution, certificate, training in a specific skill, etc.).
- Successful students will contribute to a more prepared workforce and growing community.
- The best marketing for any institution is its alumni, and alumni who were successful by this definition create positive feedback for the institution and its product.
- Lessening barriers to success by easing potential financial hardship through scholarships and necessities funds. Create opportunities for students and alumni to network and meet business leaders in the community.
- Celebrating the accomplishments of students and alumni and communicating these successes to large audiences.
- Assisting faculty and staff with funding new and innovative ideas that contribute to the success and preparedness of students both in the classroom and after they graduate.
- Engaging donors and alumni to raise money and awareness for North Central State College.

Making a Difference...

Keeping NC State TOMA—Top of Mind Awareness; Attracting prospects; Maintain visibility through market clutter; Publicity Opportunities and Exploring new media
- Keeping Tools Current—Accommodating changes; Transitioning to scalable web