

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Strategic Planning

NO.: SPC15-03

COMMITTEE DATE: June 1, 2015

BOARD DATE: June 16, 2015

APPROVAL OF SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of **Springfield Technical Community College** to revise the College's mission statement to read as follows:

Mission Statement

Springfield Technical Community College supports students as they transform their lives.

The Board further authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(e), and 22(n)

Contact: Carlos E. Santiago, Ph.D., Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
June 2015**

Springfield Technical Community College Mission Statement

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) is responsible for reviewing and approving institutional mission statements. M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(e) and §22[n].

Springfield Technical Community College Planning Process

During the 2014-15 academic year, Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) engaged in an inclusive, collaborative process to develop a five-year Student Success Plan that included multiple opportunities in multiple formats for stakeholder participation. As part of this yearlong planning effort and in accordance with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) requirements for periodic review, the STCC Planning Committee reviewed the college's current mission statement. The Planning Committee's aim was to develop a memorable, data-driven mission statement that captured the work of all stakeholders at the College.

To do this, the Planning Committee conducted a series of activities for students, faculty and staff that included (1) reviewing the current mission statement for strengths and weaknesses and (2) sharing stories of student experiences and successes at the College. The information from these activities provided the Committee with the purpose, actions, and impact of the work at STCC that were the critical component parts of the mission statement. Based on this information, the Planning Committee developed and reviewed several variations of the mission statement. In early April 2015, the proposed mission statement and a draft of the Student Success Plan were distributed college-wide for review, and a survey accompanied the work to collect responses. Nearly 75% of College respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the new mission statement reflected the work of the entire College, including all academic and support services.

On May 11, the Internal/External Committee of the STCC Board of Trustees reviewed and approved both the new Mission Statement and the Student Success Plan. The committee commended the memorability and student-focused nature of the new Mission Statement. On May 18, the full STCC Board of Trustees approved the Mission Statement and the five-year Student Success Plan.

Current and New Mission Statements

STCC's current Mission Statement reads as follows:

Springfield Technical Community College, a leader in technology and instructional innovation, transforms lives through educational opportunities that promote personal and professional success.

STCC's new Mission Statement reads as follows:

Springfield Technical Community College supports students as they transform their lives.

Rationale for Change:

The data obtained through the planning activities was nearly unanimous with students, faculty, and staff all noting that the STCC community is fiercely supportive of its

students. That support manifests itself in many ways such as teaching in the classrooms, aiding students in the Success Center, helping students in the Library, and creating a safe environment conducive to learning. Our data from these planning activities also suggest that the College has areas of improvement regarding our technology use and innovation, so removing that phrase from the statement seems appropriate at this time. Finally, the new mission statement reflects the student-centered nature of the College's work articulated in the new 2015-2020 Student Success Plan.