

2005 - 2006

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS &
STRATEGIC PLAN

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Institutional Research and Planning Office

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PREFACE

This document is designed to serve as both a reporting mechanism and a guide for planning and institutional effectiveness activities at Southwestern Community College. As a result, this report addresses both the major 2004-2005 planning and institutional effectiveness activities of Southwestern Community College, as well as the anticipated plans for the 2005-2006 year. Consequently, this report also serves as both an institutional effectiveness plan and a strategic plan. Four major activities dominate this year's report:

- the leadership role of the institution in an effort to address the critical need in the college service area for high-speed Internet access at a cost comparable to urban areas of the state (via the BalsamWest FiberNET initiative), and the companion effort which focuses on the application aspects derived from the creation of the fiber-optic network.
- the continuing efforts by the college to address its current and future facility needs throughout its three county service area,
- the review of the college planning process and the implementation of changes designed to enhance and strengthen the process at both the institutional and departmental levels, and
- the commencement of the reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) by the college, with the anticipation of reaffirmation in June, 2007.

It should be noted that while the primary focus of this document is on **institutional** planning activities, the Planning/Outcomes Documents included in Section V specifically address both the accomplishments for 2004-2005 and plans for 2005-2006 on a **departmental or programmatic** basis.

It should also be noted that the goals and objectives of the North Carolina Community College System are taken into consideration when the college reviews/develops its institutional goals and priorities. This review ensures that the goals and priorities of Southwestern are consistent with those of the System. The analysis indicated the college's goals and priorities were compatible with those of the North Carolina Community College System. A copy of the System's goals and objectives is included in Appendix I.

Finally, it should be noted that this report serves as the primary reference for the planning and institutional effectiveness activities of the college. The ultimate purpose of these activities is to assist the college in charting a course of action to meet the educational, cultural and economic development needs of its three-county service area (Jackson, Macon and Swain counties).