

COLLEGE VISION

Southwestern Community College will be:

- A **Gateway** for enriching lives and broadening horizons
- A **Guiding Force** in growing and caring for our mountain community
- A **Creative Partner** in collaborative solutions

COMPLIANCE

It is the policy of Southwestern Community College that no qualified person shall be excluded from participation in, declined the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any college program or activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Southwestern Community College complies with Titles VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

GOVERNANCE

Southwestern Community College is one of 59 institutions operating in the North Carolina Community College System, a statewide organization of public, two-year, postsecondary educational institutions. The College is governed by a local Board of Trustees within the framework of the Community Colleges Act, Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The Board consists of 14 Trustees - five appointed by the county commissioners, four appointed by the Board of Education, four appointed by the Governor of North Carolina and the Student Leadership Association President.

The objective of the Board of Trustees is to assure that Southwestern Community College achieves its mission within the guidelines established by the State Board of Community Colleges and the State of North Carolina.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

The College will...

1. Seek excellence in learning and teaching for transfer, vocational and technical education, literacy development, business and industry training and life long learning in an accessible format to serve a diverse population.
2. [Maintain a nurturing learning environment by providing comprehensive support and intervention services for every individual.](#)
3. Proactively identify, acquire and maintain college resources to support the vision, mission and goals of the college.
4. Attract and retain quality employees and provide for their personal and intellectual growth.
5. Develop cooperative community-based relationships which contribute to the cultural, economic, educational and social betterment of the region.
6. Assess institutional effectiveness as part of the planning and renewal process based on continuous improvement principles.
7. Effectively promote the College to the community.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Southwestern Community College was established in Sylva on Dec. 1, 1964 as the Jackson County Industrial Education Center, a satellite unit of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Institute. Since achieving independent status in the fall of 1967, the College (then known as Southwestern Technical Institute) has greatly expanded its educational and training services to the residents of Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

Initially, the Jackson County Industrial Education Center was approved to offer four programs of study: automotive mechanics; carpentry and cabinetmaking; block and brick

masonry; and radio, television and small-appliance repair. When the center opened its doors in 1964, a total of 133 students were enrolled in short-term courses. An additional 60 were enrolled in full-day classes.

Currently – including all diploma, certificate and associate's degree curricula as well as concentrations – instruction is provided in more than 60 programs. In addition to the main campus in Sylva, the College operates four centers located in Bryson City, Cherokee, Franklin and Cashiers. More than 2,600 students enroll annually in credit courses, and more than 5,500 (unduplicated) participate in a wide variety of courses, workshops and seminars offered through Continuing Education.

Located on a 57-acre tract of land on North Carolina Highway 116 between Webster and Sylva, the Southwestern Community College Jackson Campus consists of seven buildings, totaling 194,728 square feet, including a Library. Centrally located to serve southwestern North Carolina, the college is 50 miles southwest of Asheville, NC, and 90 miles southeast of Knoxville, TN.

Southwestern Community College's three-county service area totals 1,534 square miles (30 percent larger than the state of Rhode Island) and has a population of approximately 78,000. The area is noted for the beautiful Smoky Mountains and the variety of recreational opportunities available.

MISSION STATEMENT

Southwestern Community College is a comprehensive learning and teaching institution offering high-quality, innovative instruction and support to all who need and value these services. Seamless links with the community, advanced technology and a culturally rich environment promote student achievement and academic excellence.

Southwestern Community College accomplishes its mission through customer focus, continuous improvement and teamwork:

- to awaken the potential of each student, offering multiple pathways for learning what is important to know and to do -- giving coherence and meaning to the total educational experience,
- to aggressively pursue the most current technologies while maintaining a nurturing atmosphere which appreciates the value of every individual,
- to be a catalyst for community service -- removing barriers, creating linkages, building relationships and integrating resources to enhance the quality of life,
- to be a leader in economic development and a mindful steward of the natural and cultural resources of the area,
- to prepare citizens to live, learn and work in a diverse global village.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Service is how we relate to people we interact with every day. At Southwestern Community College, the needs of our students will remain our highest priority. We serve an internal and external clientele including current and prospective students, employees, and community members. Our student-centered service philosophy forms the very basis for how we do our jobs.

- **Greet people with courtesy.**
- **Demonstrate professionalism.**
- **Communicate with accurate information.**
- **Demonstrate a welcoming and helpful manner.**
- **Respect the needs of others.**
- **Take positive action on behalf of others.**