

# **Vision 2017 Faculty-Staff Focus Group Results**

**January 4, 2012**

- 1. Using the following scale, please answer the question: How well prepared are Southwestern Community College students/graduates for employment or further education?**

☐ **Not prepared**      ☐ **Very poorly prepared**      ☐ **Somewhat prepared**  
☐ **Prepared**      ☐ **Very prepared**

Participants were evenly divided in rating student/graduate preparation for employment or further education as prepared and very prepared. None of the participants gave a rating below prepared.

## **Follow Up Question: Why did you select the answer that you did?**

Some participants indicated they selected Prepared because graduates need on the job experience to become proficient in their profession.

Another participant indicated some graduates become overly dependent upon the level of support they receive at SCC and must adapt when this support is not available at the place of employment or at a four-year university.

- 2. If you know of individuals or groups who have not attended SCC, explain why.**

Some continue to view community colleges as being inferior to a four-year university; also counselors in private schools strongly encourage students to continue their education at a four-year institution.

Older adults are sometimes intimidated at the prospect of entering college

Travel distance

Lack of student housing

Lack of affordable/available childcare

Individuals with a background of academic failure lack the confidence to enroll at SCC

Some individuals perceive programs at SCC as too rigorous- prefer to go elsewhere where academic standards are perceived as less demanding

**3. How can Southwestern Community College serve you as an individual?**

Flexible work schedules (year-round, not just summer)

Vending/food service

Affordable childcare

Salary raises

Funding for clinical sites

TLC's that focus on teaching best practices (more emphasis on learning & classroom)

Funding to provide kindles for students

Allow full and part-time employees to take a free class

Some way to show appreciation to employees for the work they do

Better health insurance

**4. If you had the ability to change one element at Southwestern Community College what would that be?**

Update classroom computers

Update software for classroom computers

Provide more opportunities for SCC faculty and staff to socialize/become better acquainted

Provide more opportunities for SCC faculty and staff to learn about its various operations, such as offerings of the Public Safety Training Center

More communication at the college

More course offerings (including evenings/weekends)

Increase staff/faculty in those areas that are particularly short-handed

Review block scheduling to ensure it works for all programs

Secure document imaging resources/capability

Renewed focus on vocational programs

Implement some form of food service at the college

Make sure college web page is current and that information is accessible

Increased effort to market our program offerings

Sometimes hear from students that they have difficulty contacting their advisor- need to remove any obstacles in this regard

Improved wireless access, particularly in Oaks Hall

Need updated course/instructional software

**5. What is your overall perception of Southwestern Community College?**

Good!

Very student-centered

Provides high quality education (better/equal to 4-yr. Institutions) at an affordable cost