



Texas Southmost College
TRADITION • INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY

VISION 2017

Vision 2017 Strategic Plan
2013 - 2017



Texas Southmost College (TSC) is returning to its core mission, building on nearly a century of service and success. To ensure that as much information as possible was gathered regarding the needs of the community-at-large and the business sector, the College engaged in an extensive strategic planning process.

The College's strategic planning process encompassed the participation of various stakeholders, including past and future students; faculty and staff; residents living in the communities served by the College; and business leaders located throughout Cameron and Willacy Counties. Community summits were held in Brownsville, Los Fresnos and Point Isabel. Additionally, numerous focus group sessions were held with businesses, students and faculty. There were over 350 participants that provided guidance and input. The TSC website was also used to solicit additional community input.

The information obtained through the community summits and focus group sessions, in which members of the TSC board attended, were compiled and analyzed by the TSC Strategic Planning Committee. Appointed by the president, this group was comprised of community leaders, faculty and staff. This Committee was entrusted with the task of reviewing the valuable information received from community residents as well as additional information gathered from an environmental scan that was conducted to identify key influences related to demographics, technology, education, the economy, and politics. A new mission statement and strategic plan was drafted by the Committee for the review and consideration by the TSC Board of Trustees.

On August 28, 2012, the TSC Board of Trustees adopted *TSC Vision 2017*. In the fall 2013 semester, the College became independently operational. TSC faculty and staff, soon after the start of the semester, began working on the identification of strategies in support of each of the College's institutional goals. On December 2, 2013, the TSC Board of Trustees reviewed the work of faculty and staff, and approved specific strategies for each of the College's institutional goals.

I am pleased to present the results of this extensive and momentous effort. This living document will serve the College well over the next five years. It is the foundation from which TSC will rebuild itself—expanding upon the successes of the past, while embracing a revived commitment to the comprehensive community college mission.

Lily F. Tercero, Ph.D.
President

TSC is strongly committed to providing an affordable and accessible postsecondary education in a community college setting; to offering a quality education with an emphasis on teaching through outreach programs which include workforce training, continuing education, and community service, while promoting cultural values and an open enrollment philosophy which eliminates conventional barriers for student access to higher education. Accordingly, the mission statement of Texas Southmost College is as follows:

Mission Statement

“Transforming our communities through innovative learning opportunities”

Texas Southmost College’s mission is guided by our commitment to provide:

- University transfer, career, and technical programs leading to an associate degree or certificate along with courses specializing in college preparatory and developmental education, workforce training, adult literacy, and continuing education to support the evolving needs of citizens, industry, and economic development initiatives within Cameron and Willacy Counties.
- High-quality instruction and learning opportunities in classroom, online, and through other delivery methods; a supportive and innovative faculty and staff; appropriate technology, equipment, and learning resources; and advising, support and assessment services to promote transfer to a four-year baccalaureate institution, entry or advancement in the workforce, or lifelong learning.
- A learning-centered, service-oriented environment that celebrates diversity and inclusion; facilitates growth and development; fosters social responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and innovation; and empowers and engages students, faculty and staff to achieve personal and professional goals.
- Institutional effectiveness that embraces individual accountability, data-driven decision making, change and an unending pursuit of excellence.

Goal 1 -Pathways

Provide accessible, affordable, and flexible instructional delivery systems and dynamic curricula to all students, regardless of time or place, by enhancing career and technical programs that are responsive to the training needs of industry and a highly skilled workforce and by collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to improve college readiness, define outcomes, and promote multiple paths to student access, completion, and success.

Supporting Strategies:

- 1.1** Systematically assess student learning outcomes.
- 1.2** Align college preparatory programs with academic and technical programs.
- 1.3** Create pathways between secondary, TSC and four-year institutions of higher education.
- 1.4** Provide affordable and accessible learning opportunities that meet the needs of the 21st century workforce.

Goal 2 - Success

Promote academic excellence and student learning through high-quality, learning-centered instruction, and support services, with a continuous focus on improving student learning outcomes that reflect the highest academic standards and that meet the needs of our communities and industry partners.

Supporting Strategies:

- 2.1** Improve student retention rates.
- 2.2** Adopt high academic standards.
- 2.3** Measure success through employment rates.
- 2.4** Align all courses, programs, and units to institutional goals and outcomes.

Goal 3 - Community Engagement

Establish mutually beneficial public, private, and community-based partnerships to expand awareness, leverage resources, and promote services and programs of the College that meet the needs of the communities in which the College serves.

Supporting Strategies:

- 3.1** Incorporate service learning experiences across the institution.
- 3.2** Establish partnerships with public and private community agencies.
- 3.3** Develop programs that meet the needs of the community.
- 3.4** Integrate wellness initiatives with community partnerships.

Goal 4 – Institutional Effectiveness

Enhance student success by focusing on continuous improvement that is grounded on evidence-based initiatives, strategies, and processes; student, faculty, and staff engagement in teaching and learning outcomes; professional development; an integrated systems approach to facilitate efficient use of college resources through fiscally sound practices; and collaboration with and service to the communities in which the College serves.

Supporting Strategies:

- 4.1** Assure compliance with accrediting agencies.
- 4.2** Provide professional growth opportunities for faculty and staff.
- 4.3** Assess program effectiveness.
- 4.4** Organize and utilize an on-going cycle of strategic planning to support continuous improvement.

Statement of Vision

Texas Southmost College will be a premier community college dedicated to student success.

Statement of Values

To successfully fulfill the vision and mission, Texas Southmost College is consciously committed to:

- **Integrity** by respecting the ideals of social responsibility, academic honesty, trustworthiness, personal ethics, and the courage to act.
- **Access** by reaching out to our diverse communities, expanding linkages with industry, and strengthening our partnerships with area ISDs and universities to create accessible and affordable educational pathways for our students, faculty and staff.
- **Service** by encouraging and recognizing collaboration, teamwork, compassion, and *service to others*.
- **Excellence** by providing relevant, high-quality educational experiences and a supportive learning environment to advance knowledge, promote understanding and achieve the academic and workforce potential of students, faculty and staff.
- **Innovation** by embracing emerging technologies to enhance and expand teaching, learning, and service opportunities for students, faculty and staff.
- **Success** by empowering, engaging and educating students, faculty and staff to achieve their personal and professional aspirations for graduation, academic transfer, employment, and other educational goals.

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