A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the College:

Focus 2020 will serve as the strategic plan for Thomas Nelson Community College over the next five years. It brings into sharp relief the three most critical things that we must accomplish during this period: (1) improve the overall success of students; (2) strengthen partnerships with the Peninsula community; and (3) enhance the College’s capacity for excellence.

These overarching goals have been established as a result of an extensive process of deliberation and consultation within and without the institution. Many thanks for the leadership provided by the Institutional Effectiveness Committee and for the contributions by those from various constituency and stakeholder groups who have participated at various stages of the planning process. The support and final endorsement of the College Board have been crucial.

Each year, our annual planning process will occur under the framework of the three strategic goals and the related objectives that identify more specifically the outcomes that we expect to realize between now and 2020. As a result, Thomas Nelson will remain true to our philosophy and core values, will successfully carry out our mission in our day-to-day activities, and will significantly advance towards our long-term vision for excellence, student success, and community responsiveness.

Sincerely,

John T. Dever
President
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Success. It's closer than you think.
Thomas Nelson serves a region renowned for being the birthplace of America and home to communities rich in culture and history. In Fall 2014, 27.3% of Thomas Nelson credit students were Hispanic, and the remaining 10.5% identify as another race or as two or more races, or did not specify their race/ethnicity. By race/ethnicity, 48.3% of students are White, 35.0% are Black or African American, 6.2% are Asian, 0.5% are Native American, 2% are African, and 0.1% are from two or more races. Of the College’s 15,122 credit students, 58.9% are female and 55.8% are under the age of 25. Over the next five years, from 2015 to 2020, Thomas' mission will focus on student success and achievement, and the College can achieve further success and more effectively serve the Peninsula community, if it...
Philosophy:

At Thomas Nelson, Community College changes lives, empowers students to succeed, and enhances the civic and economic vitality of the Peninsula community through high quality education and workforce training, excellent and innovative partnerships, and responsiveness to our students and community.

Core Values:
- Students First
- Educational Excellence
- Community Responsibility
- Diversity
- Mutual Respect
- Shared Governance
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Education Excellence
- Sharing College

Mission:
Thomas Nelson Community College changes lives, empowers students to succeed, and enhances the civic and economic vitality of the Peninsula community through high quality education and workforce training, excellent and innovative partnerships.

Vision:

As the Peninsula's Community College, Thomas Nelson is committed to excellence, recognized for student success, and dedicated to meeting the needs of our community.

Vision:

Improve the Overall Success of Students
Strengthen Partnerships with the Peninsula Community
Enhance College Capacity for Excellence

Excellence
Community
Peninsular
Partnerships
Success of Students
Focus 2020

and commit to shared decision making characterized by broad participation, We acknowledge a shared responsibility for institutional success and improvement, – We value the contributions of everyone, Mutual Respect and Shared Governance • respect and appreciation for our diverse cultures, beliefs, lifestyles and perspectives. differences and fostering inclusive working and learning environments that promote

Diversity

and social interaction outside the classroom

Students will be afforded expanded opportunities for personal growth and development

Educational Excellence

• ethical behavior, and to impart honesty, trust and transparency in all interactions. • Students will be provided with instructional delivery methods that are strategically • Students will have ready access to clear, consistent, and comprehensive information regarding all College programs and academic and student support services • Students will be engaged in an appreciative and proactive advising system that helps students realize their dreams. • Students progressing directly into the workforce will have developed the skills and abilities needed to advance through career pathways and into careers and in community and civic life opportunities in a supportive collegiate environment that will equip students to • Students progressing to 4-year colleges and universities will have developed strong • Students will have proficiencies in general education competencies that effectively prepare them to • We value high standards for learning and appreciate learning for all ages and our dedicated faculty and staff who create learning environments that stimulate and encourage life-long learning, and we are committed to providing outstanding academic and workforce education and workforce training needs of our community and to building strong innovative

Community Responsiveness • Students will be engaged in an appreciative and proactive advising system that helps students realize their dreams. • Students will have proficiencies in general education competencies that effectively prepare them to • Students progressing to 4-year colleges and universities will have developed strong • Students will have proficiencies in general education competencies that effectively prepare them to • We value high standards for learning and appreciate learning for all ages and our dedicated faculty and staff who create learning environments that stimulate and encourage life-long learning, and we are committed to providing outstanding academic and workforce education and workforce training needs of our community and to building strong innovative

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The development of Focus 2020 included reflection on Thomas Nelson's guiding principles.

Principles

Strategic Goals and Related Objectives

Goal 2: Strengthen Partnerships with the Peninsula Community

- Collaborate with education, industry, and other community partners to enhance the vitality of the Peninsula and expand opportunities for students.
- Related Objectives:
  - The College will serve as a catalyst for community partnerships
  - The College will be responsive to emerging occupations and industries, and will provide students with the education and training needed to succeed in those emerging fields
  - The College will proactively engage and serve its diverse communities, to include high school students and parents, military service members and their dependents, adult learners, and populations traditionally underserved in higher education
  - The College will attract strong advocates and increased investment through clear articulation of its identity and value to the community, and promotion of its programs and initiatives
  - The College will partner with community stakeholders and invest resources to establish and build signature programs in advanced manufacturing, health professions, information sciences, and the visual and performing arts
  - The College will build and grow innovative community partnerships to provide students with enhanced opportunities for work-based learning and career exploration
  - The College will partner with area 4-year colleges and universities to create and promote clear and accessible transfer pathways to baccalaureate degree programs
  - The College will partner with area school systems to help ensure that new high school graduates come to Thomas Nelson prepared to enter college courses and succeed

Goal 3: Enhance College Capacity for Excellence

- Improve the College’s capacity to support and engage students, employees, and community members through investment in current and future employees, new and enhanced facilities, and improved operations.
- Related Objectives:
  - The College will operate as a high-performance learning organization that embraces the ideas and diversity of its employees as a major asset and works collaboratively across all levels to accomplish its mission
  - Employees will be effectively supported as lifelong learners, and will be provided with the professional development and training they need to excel in their positions and contribute to the College’s mission
  - The College will build and retain a diverse, qualified, and inclusive workforce
  - The College will proactively streamline processes and align resources to provide students and the community with exceptional services and programs
  - The College will capitalize on information resources and research to enhance its capacity for informed decision-making and institutional improvement
  - The Hampton Campus will be transformed to provide a more appealing, engaging, and functional environment for students, employees, and community members
  - Figure 1: The Hampton Campus

Focus 2020
Acknowledgements

All great journeys begin with visionary leaders and champions. We thank you for helping the College envision its future.

Local College Board (2014-2015)
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Thomas Nelson Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) to award associate degree curricula. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Thomas Nelson Community College.
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