About Chipola

“Chipola has a great atmosphere and a wonderful staff. I’ve had a wonderful learning experience at Chipola.”

2006 Graduating Student Survey

“The teachers at Chipola are very interested in helping you do well and trying to accommodate you in every way. I love the teachers, especially in the Math and Science department.”

2006 Graduating Student Survey

“Life at Chipola was exciting! Chipola introduced me to new things and brightened my prospects in life.”

Tawanna Cotton
1999 Graduate
2006 Chipola College Yearbook Interview

“The most enjoyable part of Chipola is the way people treat me. Chipola is like a second family to me.”

Georgia Britt
2005 Graduate
2006 Chipola College Yearbook Interview

“Chipola is close to home, the teachers are nice, and I love the beautiful scenery on campus.”

Rachel Powell
Sophomore Studio Art Major
2006 Chipola College Yearbook Interview

“I really enjoyed my experience at Chipola. When I first came I could hardly pass a 10th grade level math test, but now, since the teachers helped me, I can ace a trigonometry test. They really taught me something. I am smarter now than I’ve ever been. Thanks.”

2005 Graduating Student Survey

“I am very much in debt for the educational opportunity provided me by Chipola. Without that opportunity, higher education would probably not have been an option for me.”

Dr. Malcolm Gillis
Outstanding Alumnus
President, Rice University

History
Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students
Vision, Mission & Goals
History

Chipola College is a public, open-admissions institution in Marianna, Florida, serving the five Florida panhandle counties of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington. Located in the Florida Panhandle, 70 miles west of Tallahassee, 60 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, and 30 miles from the Alabama state line, Chipola was established as the third oldest of Florida’s 28 state-supported community colleges. The institution’s name was changed from Chipola Junior College in 2003, after the Florida Legislature granted permission for Chipola to offer selected baccalaureate degrees to address documented workforce needs in the region. Chipola opened its doors in 1946 as a private institution with six full-time teachers and 65 students. The college served 3284 students in its regular degree and certificate programs in 2004-05 and an additional 2620 through Continuing Education and Public Service training.

Chipola was brought under state control and financing in 1947 when Florida’s Minimum Foundation Law initiated a plan to place two years of college education within commuting distance of every Florida citizen. The original district of Calhoun, Jackson and Washington Counties was expanded later to include Holmes and Liberty Counties.

A milestone in the college’s history occurred in 1953 when the campus moved from its original location at the former Graham Army Air Base to the present location near the banks of the Chipola River. The first permanent buildings were completed and occupied in 1954. Additions through the years have created a complex of 31 buildings arranged on a wooded campus, on about 50 acres of a 120-acre tract. The remainder is in its natural state—covered with pines, cedars and hardwoods. The campus also includes outdoor physical education fields and a pool. There are six buildings at off-campus sites.

Programs in workforce education began in 1967-68.

Chipola operates under a nine-member District Board of Trustees appointed by the governor for four-year terms. All operations are governed by the Florida Department of Education and policies set forth by the District Board of Trustees. The college was accredited in 1957 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and has maintained continuous accreditation since that time. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation of all programs occurred in 1998. SACS approved Chipola’s Application for Substantive Change to a Level II institution and granted permission to offer baccalaureate degrees in December of 2003.

In January 2004, Chipola enrolled its first students in the new Teacher Education Program to earn the Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education with emphasis in math or science.
Documented Performance of Chipola and Its Students

Chipola is respected among post secondary institutions in Florida because of the success of its students. Shown below are highlights of success on a variety of indicators. Similar results have been achieved by Chipola each year since the identification of the college’s success factors, institutional indicators, and the state’s accountability measures.

- **Florida Bright Futures Scholars**: State reports have ranked Chipola first in the percent of Florida’s Bright Futures Scholarship recipients. During a recent year, over 19% of the total degree-seeking student population were on these prestigious scholarships; 43% of entering freshmen were Bright Futures Scholars. Many of these students will transfer to professional schools in medicine, law, pharmacy, engineering, and business, but the fact that so many of these scholars receive their general education at Chipola speaks well for the college’s reputation for high standards and quality instruction.

- **Outstanding Instruction at All Levels**: There are many other indicators of instructional quality. State accountability reports consistently rank Chipola among the top colleges in Florida on CLAST scores and GPAs among transfers to state universities. Licensure passing rates and job placement rates are consistently above 80%, including Registered Nursing Exam passing rates of 82%. Among the underprepared students who are placed in college-prep/remedial courses on entry, Chipola has unprecedented success. According to the 2004 accountability report, 82% of the students who take college prep/remedial reading go on to pass their required college-level reading course, compared to the statewide rate of only 63.4%. Chipola ranks in the Top 10 in the state in the percentage of students (92%) who take any college prep/remedial math, reading, or writing course and then go on to pass or exempt the CLAST exam. The state rate is only 90%. In 2004, the grade point average of Chipola’s AA graduates who transferred to the State University System (all universities/all students) was 3.04, compared to the state average of only 2.92. Chipola’s most recent CLAST overall passing or exemption rate was 96%.

- **Chipola Honors Program**: The Chipola Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Honors Program at Chipola offers weekly seminars for the brightest and best students. Teachers of honors classes guide students through research projects, beyond the regular course requirements.

- **Nationally Recognized Scholars, and Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda Chapters**: Chipola’s students and academic organizations have earned state and national recognition, including Christiana Prichard, a former student named the number one college student among all students in Florida’s colleges and universities according to Florida Leader Magazine. Prichard was selected from hundreds of nominees from public and private colleges and universities in Florida. In 2004-05, Lauren Eade was named to the USA Today/All American Team, a Leader of Promise, a Florida Centennial Scholar, and a Guistwhite Scholar.

   Campus organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa, Brain Bowl, Mu Alpha Theta, and Phi Beta Lambda reflect Chipola College’s commitment to academic growth among the student body inside and outside of the classroom. The college nurtures and guides the students in these organizations, expanding their educational opportunities into regional and national arenas. Student members are encouraged to interact and sometimes compete with their peers at community colleges nation-

In the last eight years, ten Chipola scholars have been named to the USA Today – All American team and recognized at the AACC Convention.

Three Chipola scholars received the prestigious Guistwhite Scholarship last year. Only 20 were awarded worldwide.
Through membership, students are exposed to the diversity within the region and nation and have the opportunity to foster new experiences through conferences throughout Florida and in distant locations like Los Angeles, Dallas, Boston, Denver, Nashville, Minneapolis, and most recently, Seattle.

The Chipola College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society for community college students, maintains a legacy of excellence. In 2006, Chipola student and Phi Theta Kappa member, Kimberly H. Garske was named New Century Scholar for the state of Florida. This annual award is reserved for the state’s most outstanding student. Additionally, Ms. Garske was named to the All USA Academic 1st Team and was selected as one of twenty students nationally to receive the coveted $5000 Guistwhite Scholarship. Through Phi Theta Kappa in 2005-2006, Kimberly received a total of $10,500 in scholarships. In the same academic year, Cassie Prichard, another chapter member, was named to the All Florida 2nd Team and was awarded the Coca-Cola Scholarship. Among other awards, the chapter was recognized as the 2nd Most Distinguished chapter in the region.

During 2004-2005, three Phi Theta Kappa members were selected to receive Guistwhite Scholarships: Brandon Sasser, Paige Rentz, and Lauren Eade. Paige additionally received the Leaders of Promise Scholarship and was named to the All USA Academic 1st Team. Lauren was recognized as the state’s top scholar in 2005 receiving the New Century Scholar designation and was also named to the All USA Academic 1st Team. Brandon, Paige, and Lauren were awarded $5000, $9000, and $11,500 respectively in Phi Theta Kappa scholarships.

Chipola College holds its Phi Theta Kappa members in high esteem and has created a wall of honor in the Literature/Language Building to recognize the most outstanding accomplishments earned by individual students throughout the chapter’s history. The chapter offers opportunities in scholarship, leadership, and service, and through the society, students learn to understand commitment to community. Although membership is restricted by GPA, the organization opens its doors for non-members to participate in campus and community events.

**Fine and Performing Arts:** Chipola College serves as the cultural arts center for five counties by bringing outstanding musical and theatre performances and art exhibits to the area.

- Chipola sponsors an annual Artist Series that brings visiting artists of national and international reputation to the campus each year.
- The Theatre Department’s 2005-06 student production, the drama “All My Sons,” received two Irene Ryan Nominations at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and the musical “Grease” was rated “superior” by the Florida Community College Activities Association. Both productions were enjoyed by sold-out audiences. Several other Chipola theatre productions have been ranked “superior” during the past seven years.
- Each summer the department buses in thousands of area children to see its children’s theatre production. This past summer the production was “School House Rock Live.”
- This spring the Chorus performed a potpourri from the popular Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, and the Jazz Band performed an evening of delightful eclectic rock and jazz.
- The college’s three musical ensembles, Chamber Chorus, Rock and Jazz Ensemble, and Show Choir, perform throughout the Southeast. The Show Choir’s annual “Jazzmatazz” concerts...
each January are consistently performed to sold out audiences. As one of the finest college show choirs in the southeast, Chipola’s Show Choir routinely performs aboard cruise ships and at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Chipola’s Chamber Chorus performs major classical works and standard choral literature.

The Fine and Performing Arts Department sponsors a “Music Through Performance” program which brings together private music teachers and their students four to five times a year for performances and workshops.

Visual art students and visiting art exhibitors display their work in the student gallery of the McLendon Building and mount art shows and exhibits in the Arts Center.

In affiliation with the Chipola Regional Arts Association (CRAA), the college hosts over a thousand students for musicals, operas, or plays. In the spring of 2006 students enjoyed “Tres Vidas.” The CRAA annually funds programs for children, contributes to the Artist Series, provides mini-grants to area art, music, and theatre teachers, sponsors art exhibits, and offers scholarships for students in the arts at Chipola.

**Emphasis on Instructional Programs and Student Outcomes:** Throughout Florida, Chipola is recognized for the quality of its instructional programs, all of which undergo annual program assessments according to specific student outcomes. A rigorous Program Viability Review helps deans, department chairs, and lead faculty determine program strengths and weaknesses. All academic departments require common course syllabi, departmental final exams, use of the same textbooks, and access to appropriate labs and instructional materials.

Many indicators confirm Chipola’s outstanding scholarship, not the least of which is that Chipola’s graduates in biology, chemistry, and physics are recruited as lab assistants in state universities, and engineering students consistently earn top honors in colleges of engineering.

**College-Level Competencies:**

Faculty have identified college-level competencies taught in the general education core courses of Associate degrees. Multiple measures are used to evaluate how well students learn to do the following:

- Evaluate societal and ethical issues, problems, and values;
- Understand the history, nature, methods, and limits of science;
- Demonstrate basic mathematical skills and knowledge;
- Comprehend and articulate effectively in English
  - reading, writing, and oral communication;
- Interpret, evaluate, and appreciate works of human culture; and
- Use technology effectively.

**CAAP Performance:** Chipola’s 2005 and 2006 graduating sophomores exceeded the national mean for public two-year college sophomores on every test and subtest of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Exam (CAAP).

**Governor Jeb Bush named Chipola’s Fire Science Program, “Best in the State.”**

**Chipola’s advising program was a finalist for the League for Innovation’s Terry O’Banion “Shared Journey” Award.**

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**Congratulations Kimberly Garske and Cassie Prichard**

**Chipola College’s 2006 Academic All-Americans**

Kimberly Garske was named First Team Academic All-American and was featured in the April 24, 2006 edition of USA Today as one of 20 members of the All-USA Community College Academic Team. Cassie Prichard was named a member of the All Florida Academic Second Team. The pair of students gave hundreds of hours of time to community and campus projects. “To have two students from the college named Academic All Americans is tremendous. When you consider that these students are ranked out of the 11 million community college students in the country, the magnitude of the honor is even more impressive,” states Joan Lasseter, Phi Theta Kappa advisor. The All-USA Academic Team is open to associate degree-seeking community college students in the USA and its territories.

Additionally, Garske was named Florida’s New Century Scholar, a designation assigned to the state’s top community college student in the Academic All-American competition and a Guistwhite Scholar by Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.
Excellent Advising and Orientation: Chipola’s students get a good start during one-on-one advising sessions with faculty members and counselors. Curriculum guides and other aids in educational planning are available on the college’s website. Additional academic and career planning tools are also available for students from kindergarten through graduate school via the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS). Entering freshmen learn college survival skills during a five-week orientation course. Recent Graduating Student Surveys show that 93% of the graduates were satisfied with academic advising. Over 88.6% felt that SLS 1101-Orientation had helped them “learn about programs and services,” and 91% felt that the course had helped them “learn about transferring to a state university.”

Athletics: Although Chipola has fewer than 3,500 students in degree and certificate programs, it is a “big name” in sports and always has been. Its basketball and baseball teams regularly appear in state tournaments. Chipola hosts the men’s and women’s state basketball tournament each year in the Milton H. Johnson Health Center on Chipola’s campus.

Playing in one of the toughest leagues in the nation—the Panhandle Conference—Chipola’s men’s basketball teams have won eight state basketball championships — more than any other Florida community college. It has won 14 Panhandle Conference championships and made eleven trips to the national tournament, placing fourth in the nation in 2005. The women’s basketball team won their first state championship in 2005 and repeated in 2006. They also advanced to the national tournament, placing fourth in the nation in 2006.

Chipola’s Baseball and Softball programs have winning traditions with successful conference and state championship competition. The baseball team won the Panhandle Conference championship in 2006 and advanced to the FCCAA State Tournament. The softball team advanced to the FCCAA State Tournament, losing in the Gulf District championship game to conference rival Gulf Coast.

The Chipola Appreciation Club is one of the most active athletic booster groups in the nation. The entire focus of athletics at Chipola is to make student athletes successful on the playing court or field while also ensuring success in the classroom.

Course Offerings

Some of the most popular majors among AA/Transfer students are Business, Engineering, Education, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Psychology. Popular AS degree programs are Nursing, Computer Science, Child Care, and Recreation Technology. Popular certificate programs are Automotive Technology, Computer Electronics, Fire Science, Corrections, Cosmetology and Law Enforcement.

At the request of current students, most classes are now scheduled from 7:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m., to meet the needs of employed, commuting students with family responsibilities. All departments schedule classes on Monday through Thursday evenings.

Training programs are changed or continued as dictated by documented need. Needs assessments precede all major program changes. Program Reviews are based on indicators of student learning, cost effectiveness, faculty qualifications, and community impact. The college fosters training partnerships with area businesses and agencies. Responses to community training needs include: (1) initiating a special Para-Professional Program to help public schools meet the requirements of the “No Child Left Behind” law; (2) offering high school Dual-Enrollment classes in 16 district high schools at the request of parents, students, and school officials; (3) beginning a Child Care Training Program to provide the Florida Child Care Credential and establish on-campus child care; (4) doubling the RN, LPN, and PCA programs and developing an integrated curriculum approved by the State Board of Nursing and local health care employers; (5) expanding Public Service training programs at the request of the Department of Corrections and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; (6) establishing a University Center to bring university bachelor’s and master’s degrees to Chipola in response to a community needs assessment; and (7) initiating a Teacher Education Program to help address Florida’s shortage of qualified math and science teachers.
Outstanding Faculty

One of Chipola’s greatest assets is its outstanding faculty. There are 62 full-time faculty members. About 82% are tenured, with 16% within five years of retirement. About 24% hold doctorates; 63% hold Master’s or Education Specialist degrees. At least 10% of these have completed course work toward the doctorate.

Several instructors have received prestigious teaching awards and won state and regional recognition for instructional projects at Chipola. Faculty also regularly participate at state meetings and conduct in-service activities for public school teachers in the college district. When available, adjunct faculty are also engaged to teach classes, mostly in the arts, social sciences, criminology, and corrections.

Over 80% of student contact hours are taught by full-time faculty. Highly qualified instructors are hired in full-time positions. This has prevented fragmented approaches to instruction that are frequently reported in schools with high percentages of adjunct teachers. Inherent in the college’s philosophy is the belief that full-time teachers have a full-time commitment to teaching and that interaction in the workplace creates a willingness to learn from each other, share departmental resources, and gain expertise.

Dr. Gina McAllister was the recipient of the 2006 Faculty/Administrator of the Year Award at Chipola College. McAllister is an instructor in Chipola’s Teacher Education program. Here, Chipola President Dr. Gene Prough presents McAllister with the award at the 2006 Chipola College graduation.

Humanities professor Dr. Robert Dunkle was chosen by his peers to receive the Kirkland Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 2006 Chipola College graduation. Here, Dunkle receives congratulations from Carolyn Kirkland.
Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Awards and Recognition

- Rose Cavin, Math – Recipient, 2005-2006 Louis W. Bender Scholarship for graduate students at Florida State University.
- Santine Cuccio, Ph.D., and Steve Shimmel, Ph.D., Science – Co-recipients, 2005 Special Project Development Award, Florida Tech Prep Network, National Tech Prep Convention, Orlando, FL.
- Gina McAllister, Ed.D., Education – Recipient, 2006 Faculty/Administrator of the Year Award.
- Lindsay Roach, Student Services – Recipient, 2005 FACC Distinguished Service Award.
- Joan Stadsklev, Fine and Performing Arts – Recipient, Special Recognition by the Foundation for Academic Educators, Inc., Ft. Myers, FL; $10,000 to the Chipola Foundation in honor of Joan Stadsklev.

State/Regional/National Leadership

- Sandra Harrell, Athletics – 2006 Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) State President
- Sandra Harrell, Athletics – Member, 2006 Florida Community Colleges Activities Association (FCCAA) Executive Committee
- Marion C. “Bud” Riviere, Workforce Development – Member, Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board.
- Marion C. “Bud” Riviere, Workforce Development – Member, University of Florida College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Advisory Board.
- Lindsay Roach, Student Services – Corresponding Secretary, Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) Student Development Commission.
- Kathryn Roberts, Business – 2006 State Advisor, District I, Phi Beta Lambda.
- Charles Sirmon, Director of Theatre – 2005-06 College Theatre Respondent for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.
- Charles Sirmon, Director of Theatre – Adjudicator, Florida Community Colleges Activities Association (FCCAA), Theatre Division.
- Charles Sirmon, Director of Theatre – The Second City Theatre Training Center, New York City, NY.
- Jane Walker, Tech Prep Coordinator – Advisory Member, Region I, Training Council for Career and Technical Education; Member, 2006 Florida Tech Prep Network.
- Jane Walker, Tech Prep Coordinator – Member, 2007 CAREERS Conference Advisory Committee, Center on Education and Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Kathy Wheeler, Health Sciences – Board Member, Big Bend Area Health Education Coalition (AHEC).
- Margie Williams, Director of Continuing Education – Representative, Region I, Continuing and Adult Education Standing Committee.

Professional Publications


Professional Presentations


**Growth of Facilities and Technology**

During the last five years, the college has received over $20 million in funds to build or renovate 200,000 square feet. Since 1998 the college has also undergone a technological renaissance. Over 90 percent of the classrooms are equipped with “smart” classroom technology. Chipola has student computer labs in every classroom building and a state-of-the-art library, which houses the student Technology Center and provides numerous databases as part of the Florida LINCC system. During this unprecedented period of growth in facilities and technology, the state has strengthened the college’s ability to meet the educational needs of district citizens.

People of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, are embracing technology as never before. This increased dependence has been recognized, and embraced, at Chipola College. From “hand-holding” the beginner to supplementing the proficient, Chipola provides the technological resources for students to advance their skills, no matter their level of expertise.

The new century ushered in a new age of technological integration into the curriculum. Automotive Service Technology students and Electronics Technology students now have some of the most advanced, computer-assisted diagnostic equipment available. Instructors have the capability to simulate equipment failures and track students’ progress toward diagnosing the failure. Students receive valuable “hands-on” training supplemented by expert instruction.

Shortages in the technology industry have not gone unnoticed either. Students interested in the high-demand field of computer support may now take advantage of a state-of-the-art lab. Because of the college’s two software contracts with Microsoft Corporation, students are insured of access to the latest releases of industry-leading software. Curricula in programming, networking, office applications, and business applications are all available at Chipola.

**Credits and Official Standing**

**Accreditation & Affiliations**

Chipola College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4098; telephone number 404-679-4501) to award Baccalaureate degrees, Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Certificates of Training.

The college is also a member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Southern Association of Junior-Technical Colleges, the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, Council for Resource Development, and other professional organizations for institutions of higher learning.

The college is also accredited by the Florida Board of Nursing, Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Florida Department of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, National Auto Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), and International Conference on Automotive Collision Repair (I-CAR).

Being affiliated with these organizations means that credits earned at Chipola are recognized by other colleges and universities and employers throughout the United States. Students planning to earn advanced degrees at four-year colleges and universities may transfer work completed at Chipola, generally with no loss of credit.
Chipola College Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision
Chipola College promotes learning and student achievement through excellence, opportunity, diversity, and progress.

Mission
Chipola is a comprehensive public college whose mission is to provide accessible, affordable, quality educational opportunities to the residents of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties and to all others who choose to attend. The college creates a student-oriented atmosphere of educational excellence and maintains an intellectual environment which inspires the full development of each individual’s goals, abilities, and interests. Because there is no substitute for quality instruction, the college empowers faculty members to establish and achieve the highest possible standards. The college also promotes a strong working relationship with communities, businesses, state agencies, and other educational institutions.

Chipola provides the following:
- Educational programs which include general and pre-professional classes leading to the Associate in Arts degree for transfer into baccalaureate degree programs;
- Selected Baccalaureate degree programs which produce educated and capable professionals;
- Workforce Development programs leading to Associate in Science degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, and Certificates of Training to prepare students for careers;
- Continuing Education programs related to professional and personal development; and
- A broad range of enrollment and student services and instructional and administrative support to facilitate student success.

–Adopted June 15, 2004

Success Factors and Institutional Goals

Success Factor 1: Quality Educational Programs
Institutional Goal 1: Provide quality instruction in academic, workforce development, and continuing education programs, including sufficient instructional support to meet the needs of students.

Success Factor 2: Effective Marketing, Recruitment, and Enrollment
Institutional Goal 2: Present the college and its programs in positive ways, making every effort to attract and enroll as many students as possible by marketing the college in a variety of methods and enrolling students in efficient and customer-oriented ways.

Success Factor 3: Student Retention, Satisfaction, and Completion
Institutional Goal 3: Provide a wide-range of academic, developmental and support services to help retain students in programs by decreasing the percent of students who drop- or stop-out during their studies and increasing the percentage who persist through completion of a degree or certificate.

Success Factor 4: Responsible Resource Management
Institutional Goal 4: Promote the responsible management of resources by maintaining sound fiscal operations, seeking additional resources, improving college facilities, and providing an environment conducive to progressive implementation of technology.

Success Factor 5: Staff and Organizational Development
Institutional Goal 5: Encourage staff and organizational development by supporting an efficient and productive work environment where employees demonstrate competence, integrity, and professional excellence.

Success Factor 6: Community Involvement and Development
Institutional Goal 6: Foster strong community involvement and workforce development by supporting local and state economic growth and encouraging civic, cultural, recreational, and service activities.

Success Factor 7: Post-Chipola Student Satisfaction and Success
Institutional Goal 7: Maintain a strong reputation for promoting student satisfaction and long-term success by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue their goals and become more productive citizens.