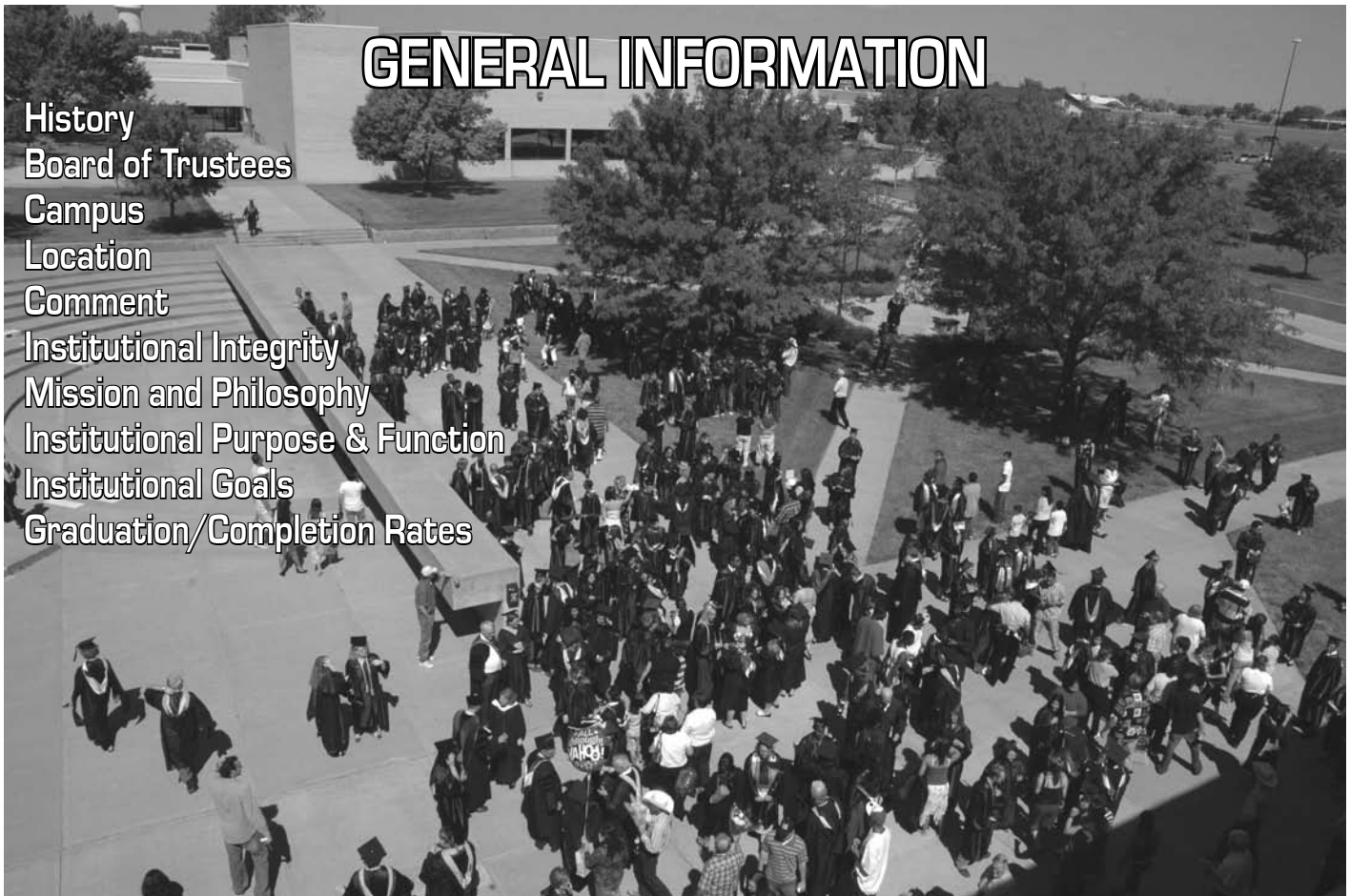


GENERAL INFORMATION

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History

The vision of a new community junior college in southwestern Kansas grew out of the Kansas Community Junior College Act of 1965 and the positive action of the board members of the Liberal Unified School District No. 480. On September 15, 1967, State Superintendent Kampschroeder gave his approval for Liberal's application for Seward County Community Junior College. The date of October 24, 1967, was set aside for a county wide election to determine whether the citizens wanted a community college. The final vote carried by a margin of 3.4 to 1.

The date of the Order of Establishment for Seward County Community Junior College was December 29, 1967. It was determined that classes could be offered after August 1, 1969. The college officially opened its doors to its first student body on September 2, 1969. From an initial enrollment of 331, it has progressed to over 2,000 students. Effective July 1, 2008, the college assumed operational responsibilities of Southwest Kansas Technical School. The technical school, established in 1967, had operated under the governance of Unified School District 480 until the July 1, 2008 date of the merger with SCCC/ATS. The merger of the technical school provides greater access to a variety of industrial base career and technical education programs and degree opportunities in those programs.

Board of Trustees

On December 19, 1967, the voters elected six people to serve on the first Board of Trustees. The board meets regularly on the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Seward County Community College/Area Technical School. All regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to the public. Responsibilities of the trustees include the selection of a president, the establishment of a basic policy of the community college district, and the overall welfare of the college.

Campus

The community college occupied temporary facilities in the old Epworth Hospital Building and Reno Hardware Store in downtown Liberal from 1969 until the fall of 1973. The new campus, on North U.S. Highway 83, opened in August, 1973.

The modern and functional campus includes four large academic structures, as well as three student housing facilities.

The Hobble Academic Building houses the administrative offices, faculty offices, classrooms, and labs for the Divisions of Business, Natural Science and Mathematics, Social Science and Education. This building is where the Library and Academic Achievement Center (AAC) are located. The ITV classrooms, Virtual Learning Center, lecture halls, Admissions and Counseling offices, Registrar's office and Student Financial Aid office are located in this building as well.

The Student Activities Center houses the gymnasium, swimming pool, bookstore, Wellness Center, Office of Business and Industry, Student Activities Office, Student Union and Cafeteria, as well as athletic offices, and classrooms. Expansion to the Hobble Academic Building and Student Activities Center was started in 1996, for additional classrooms, labs, offices, and wellness center, and it was completed in 1998.

The Shank Humanities Building houses the theater, music rehearsal areas, art studio, faculty offices, classrooms and special purpose rooms for the Division of Humanities.

The Agriculture Building, completed in 1997, houses classrooms, labs, an arena, and faculty offices. Located on forty acres, it is an outdoor biological classroom for wildlife and ecosystem studies.

Brent Gould Field serves as home to Saints baseball, and the semi-pro Bee Jays. A lighted tennis area and Women's softball field round out the outdoor athletic and activity facilities.

In 2006, through a contribution and purchase approximately 16 acres of land adjoining the south east side of the campus was obtained.

Effective July 1, 2008, the technical school campus became a part of the single campus of SCCC. The technical school campus includes approximately 40 acres of land with facilities for industrial programs, management offices, a student lounge and dining room, and student housing in individual apartment style units. The facilities and land became a single campus concept with classes and operations under the governance and management of the SCCC/ATS Board of Trustees and administration.

In 2005, the Board of Trustees approved construction on a Leadership Challenge Course to be located east of the softball field. Challenge courses help foster skills in goal-setting, teambuilding, self/group esteem and conflict resolution. Included in the course are high elements, such as cat walks, zip lines, and a giant ladder, while low elements, such as a TP shuffle, Mohawk walk and 12-foot wall are also available.

A Cosmetology facility on the north side of the campus was constructed and the first cosmetology class began in 2001.

In the fall of 1977, the Baughman Living Center was completed to provide on campus student housing. Additional units were constructed adjacent to the Baughman Living Center in 1981. Apartment style suites were constructed in 1996 and 2001 that accommodate thirty-two students.

In December of 2001, construction began on a 168 bed Student Living Center to replace the Baughman Living Center. The Baughman facility, which encountered major structural problems, was razed to make room for the new facility. The New Student Living Center, which was completed and dedicated in August, 2002, increased the student housing capacity to 200 students.

Renovation of the Epworth building began in the spring of 1981 and was completed in the fall to house the Allied Health programs for the college. The building was named the Epworth Allied Health Education Center.

Through a charitable donation of property located at 10th and Kansas, the Adult Learning Center was established in July, 1992. The Colvin Adult Learning Center houses the continuing education programs of General Equivalency Diploma, English as a Second Language, literacy, and citizenship preparation.

Location

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is a two-year public community college located in Liberal, Kansas, on the southern edge of Seward County. Liberal is served by the three federal U.S. Highways: 270, 83, and 54 and a major airline.

Southwestern Kansas is an area rich in wheat, oil and gas, and growing ag-related industries such as cattle and swine feeding operations and meat packing.

Comments

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School welcomes evaluation of its programs and services. Comments may be shared directly with the college or with the North Central Association of the Higher Learning Commission, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504, (800) 621-7440; (312) 263-0456; Fax: (312) 263-7462.

Institutional Integrity

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is an open-door institution committed to the principle that higher education should be available to every person who can benefit. The purpose of a comprehensive community college is to serve all students who can in turn build a better society. As a public institution, the college is guided by Kansas statute and legislative directives.

The ethical character of an educational organization is reflective of its leadership. Among those involved in the art and science of teaching, it is imperative that both teachers and leaders demonstrate a strong commitment to democratic principles, ethical behavior, and all activities being governed by these rules, regulations and policies of the institution.

The fundamental contributions of education to society demand commitment to exemplary values. Educators influence, shape and teach the values, attitudes and beliefs held by tomorrow's leaders and citizenry.

A more thorough statement concerning Institutional Integrity at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School may be found in the SCCC/ATS Policy Manual.

Mission & Philosophy

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will provide opportunities to improve and enhance each person's life through a variety of higher education programs and related services for the development of better futures.

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is a quality learning-centered institution that believes:

- A well-educated citizenry is a responsible citizenry;
- Knowledge is dynamic and evolutionary;
- Education and learning are lifelong activities;
- Higher education is an investment in future societies, and the community college plays a major role in this endeavor;
- Every human being is valuable regardless of gender, age, race, creed, cultural background, socioeconomic status, knowledge, or physical and emotional adjustment;
- Individuals are unique and deserve the opportunity to develop their optimum potential for learning and living; and
- The college, as an integral community component, responds to the interests and needs of the community.

Institutional Purpose & Function

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School will offer:

- College/University Transfer that will assure a quality higher education curriculum to meet the needs of students who wish to transfer to other colleges and universities.
- Occupational and Technical Education that will assure programs that meet the occupational objectives and the needs of a changing work force;
- General Education Courses in each program of study that will contribute to the students' educational and cultural growth;
- Continuing Education/Community Services that will offer off-campus activities, adult basic education, continuing education, work-force development, use of facilities, and cultural opportunities;
- Student Services that will fulfill the financial needs of the students and enhance the educational, physical, social, and cultural qualities of the students through guidance services, housing and food services, academic advising, student government and other activities;
- Developmental Education that will assure that the institution identifies individual needs and offers appropriate courses and tutoring to help each student succeed;

- Economic Development that will provide institutional leadership in promoting economic development in the region;
- Assessment that will assure student educational achievement and growth through appropriate, systematic and periodic assessment; and
- Integrity that will assure institutional honesty in our practices and relationships.

Institutional Goals

Our work world is ever-changing and fluid. As we enter the new millennium, these characteristics will become more apparent and intensify. In order to manage—and thrive—in today’s virtual, global, turbo-charged, just-in-time world, every college must undergo continuous change—or wither. No part of the institution is immune. The structure of the institution is changing; relationships between staff are changing; the nature of work is changing; the definition of success is changing. The result is a revolution — the dimensions of which we have never seen before. Or, at least, that is what the change mavens would have us believe.

All of us who care about students and care about our college have been engaged consistently during these turbulent times of changing demographics, economic and social values, not only in “doing things right” but, just as importantly, in “finding the right things to do.” What to keep, what to throw out, what to add, what to enhance, and what to scale down are questions that lie at the heart of a college that is striving to be the best it can be. In essence, we must have a direction and then not leave it to chance, but plan for it.

The purpose of identifying institutional goals is not only to keep the institution focused, but to chart a productive and promising course for the year ahead. The following broad goals are designed for that purpose. Each of the goals is intertwined and is not mutually independent and exclusive. Therefore, a specific priority ranking has not been assigned. However, excellence in instruction is continually retained as the most important priority.

Institutional Goals

- The Institution will assure excellence in instruction.
- The Institution will assure a positive and safe environment for student learning and life.
- The Institution will assure aggressive efforts to secure external resources and partnerships to leverage existing institutional resources.
- The Institution will assure leadership in the community region and at the state and national levels.
- The Institution will assure an attractive, modern and technological-relevant campus.
- The Institution will assure an aggressive, technological-relevant marketing/enrollment management and strategic planning process.
- The Institution will assure cost-effective/cost-efficient utilization of human, physical and fiscal resources.
- The Institution will assure positive collaboration, cooperation and articulation with external organizations and agencies.
- The Institution will assure movement toward becoming a learning centered institution.
- The Institution will assure an organizational structure that is responsive, clear, functional, and performance-based.

Annual Goals to meet these Institutional Goals are available in the President’s office.

Graduation/Completion Rates

Public Law 101-542, The Student Right-To-Know and Campus Security Act, requires higher education institutions to report their completion or graduation rate on an annual basis. The graduation rate was 31 percent for first-year students who entered Seward County Community College/Area Technical School on a full-time basis during the fall semester, 2004. This figure includes those who received a degree, certificate, or transferred to a four-year institution within a 3-year period.

Policy on Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with Seward County Community College/Area Technical School are hereby notified that this institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning Seward County Community College’s compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Mr. Tom Williams, 1801 North Kansas, Liberal, Kansas (316) 624-1951. Mr. Williams has been designated by Seward County Community College to coordinate the institution’s efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. Any person may also contact the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, regarding the institution’s compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.