

WSC Regional Planning Meeting Pre-Survey Results

Common Value, Mission, Vision and Goals

Southeast Region

Strategy Matters LLC.

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VALUES (2 Respondent)

- Community prosperity,
- service to business community,
- Integrity
- Commitment to Student Success
- Commitment to Access and Affordability
- Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

VISION (3 Respondents)

- To provide a high-quality affordable, accessible education for students seeking career preparation or advancement, transfer to a four-year institution, and lifelong learning; to offer wraparound support services to enhance student success and to provide support to underprepared /underrepresented/ underserved populations; and to provide a comprehensive collegiate experience to students that promotes engagement, growth, and success.
- Provide real useful skill sets and not just certificates
- To be the premier membership-based organization in the South Coast region of Massachusetts that business people join for government affairs, networking, professional development and economic growth.

MISSION (3 Respondents)

- A dynamic, diverse learning community that supports all students in their education, leading to a career, transfer to four-year institutions, and the pursuit of lifelong learning. Faculty and staff are committed to student success and strive to offer accessible and innovative programs with comprehensive support services to prepare students for membership in a global society.
- To plan for the future of southeastern Massachusetts that includes expansion of economic opportunity, protection of natural and historic resources, and development of excellent physical and cultural amenities.
- Dedicated to serving, promoting and advocating for businesses to improve quality of life and prosperity on the South Coast.

What changes do you anticipate? (3 Respondents)

- **State budgetary priorities** impact public higher education budgets; as those priorities change, we are more or less able to achieve goals. **Continued shifting of expenses** historically borne by the state to individual campuses (ie collective bargaining expenses, fringe, and GASB 68) detract from our operational budgetary flexibility to deliver programming and services. **Demographic shifts** impact availability of students, impacting enrollment. **Changing credentialing needs of healthcare and other sectors** are opportunities. Any legislative changes affecting organization and/or operation of community colleges will significantly impact our ability to deliver services and programs.
- ". . . [P]lanning for improved coordination and collaboration" is something we also very much believe in, as a regional planning agency, and is an important and worthwhile aim.
- Need for more **CA funding**

What do you hope we can accomplish during our first regional planning session? (4 Respondents)

- **Strategic decisions** to set pathways for "**Next Steps**"
- An **understanding of the desired outcomes** of regionalism with respect to programs, organizations, and services.
- **Enthusiastic and energetic regional kick-off** of this important statewide initiative.
- **More apprenticeship opportunities**, the possibility of a "teen wage"

What do you think is important in order to ensure that the regional planning process is successful? (4 Respondents)

- collaboration among all regional partners
- Broad-based understanding of expectations and desired end-goal.
- Perseverance, follow-through, and funding.
- Collaboration and cooperation, sharing of best practices

Is there anything else you think our team should know about your unique perspective or experiences? (3 Respondent)

- Valuable role played by community colleges
- Community colleges are uniquely positioned to ensure wide access to higher education, which increases earning potential. As open access institutions, our students, while brimming with potential, often require significant support to achieve their goals and face real challenges to success, including things many of us take for granted (like the ability to actually get to class or afford lunch). These challenges and the needs of these students, who deserve access to quality, affordable, accessible education, need to be fully understood and considered in any plans.