

VWC 2020: Pathway to Prominence

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE 2014-2020

OUR VISION

Virginia Wesleyan College will be a beacon for the liberal arts in the 21st century, where experiential learning opportunities empower students to grow as principled scholars and community leaders.

OUR MISSION *Prepare each Student for a Meaningful Life and Career*

The mission of VWC is to engage students of diverse ages, religions, ethnic origins and backgrounds in a rigorous liberal arts education that will prepare them to meet the challenges of life and career in a complex and rapidly changing world.

In this endeavor, the College employs a wide range of approaches to teaching and learning and provides opportunities to connect the study of the liberal arts with practical learning experiences on campus, in the Hampton Roads region,

and throughout the world. In accord with our United Methodist heritage, Virginia Wesleyan aspires to be a supportive community that is committed to social responsibility, ethical conduct, higher learning and religious freedom.

CORE VALUES

Academic Excellence
Supportive Community
Religious Freedom
Ethical Conduct
Social Responsibility

OUR GOAL

Provide a Transformational Educational Experience for Students

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
Enhance and Expand Experiential Learning Opportunities

2 INNOVATIVE TEACHING
Support Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning

3 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Improve and Integrate the Total Student Experience

4 COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
Strengthen Connections between VWC and the Community

5 INSPIRING SENSE OF PLACE
Maintain, Modernize and Beautify the Campus

ACTIONS

ACTION 1.1
Design and implement a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that increases the number of quality opportunities for students to participate in high impact educational practices, especially internships, undergraduate research, study abroad, and sustained service learning.

ACTION 1.2
Improve curricular architecture by establishing a framework for developmental sequences for the paths to degrees and careers across all majors.

ACTION 1.3
Map courses to competencies to promote integrative learning and continue to improve assessment measures that lead to a more purposeful curriculum.

ACTION 2.1
Establish a Center for Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning to provide leadership and support for academic initiatives that enhance faculty excellence and promote intellectual inquiry, active learning and civic engagement for students.

ACTION 2.2
Develop an institutional plan for academic technology that provides students with skills needed to succeed at VWC and in life and career, and supports faculty in developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

ACTION 2.3
Support faculty excellence through attention to professional development, training in current pedagogies, and competitive compensation in order to recruit and retain high quality educators.

ACTION 2.4
Expand mutually beneficial academic engagement opportunities with external organizations to promote practical learning experiences that prepare students for success in future careers and in civic responsibility.

ACTION 3.1
Cultivate a vibrant campus community by achieving growth through retention and targeted enrollment strategies that attract a strong, talented and diverse student population.

ACTION 3.2
Modify student success plan to include continuous improvement to new student orientation and First Year Experience; development of paths to persistence for each cohort; utilization of a CARE team for individual student needs; scholar-athlete support; and establishment of the Wesleyan Promise to assist with affordability.

ACTION 3.3
Implement a model of student engagement / leadership development that builds community and provides documentation for co-curricular and extracurricular experience and skill development.

ACTION 3.4
Assess the student experience on a regular basis and use data to make continuous improvements in processes and practices by listening to the voice of the student.

ACTION 4.1
Identify and recognize College/ community connections and levels of involvement that align with VWC initiatives and provide networks for outreach and support.

ACTION 4.2
Initiate partnerships with organizations, from local to global, to form mutually beneficial relationships that support academic and enrollment goals and provide increased visibility and outreach as well as additional resources for VWC.

ACTION 4.3
Develop a comprehensive relationship with the neighboring Western Bayside community to collaboratively address specific community needs and issues.

ACTION 4.4
Expand alumni connections, involvement and support to strengthen ties to the College and provide new networks for current students.

ACTION 5.1
Improve academic facilities to support student learning and faculty excellence by establishing priorities such as the construction a new academic building for the arts and the completion of renovations for science facilities.

ACTION 5.2
Improve outdoor athletic complex by attending to critical needs such as building a synthetic turf field, upgrading the baseball/softball complex, and constructing a track and field.

ACTION 5.3
Improve student housing to better accommodate students' expectations and residential living needs.

ACTION 5.4
Address deferred maintenance and assess and prioritize additional campus needs for facilities and infrastructure to continuously improve the living and learning environment.

ACTION 5.5
Beautify campus to create inviting spaces that inspire learning, creative expression, and quiet reflection.

