College of Education Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan

Mission

The mission of the College of Education is to prepare students to teach, lead, counsel, and model life-long learning; engage in scholarship that provides new pathways to meet the needs of a dynamic, diverse society; and facilitate access to learning opportunities that are authentic, student-centered, and technology-rich.

Vision

We envision a College of Education that continues to grow in its national recognition for excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship, and outreach; and becomes the choice for novice and experienced professionals desiring a high quality, flexible education to help them meet their individual intellectual and career goals.

Goal 1: Strengthen the capacity of the College to provide quality undergraduate and graduate programs

The hallmark of a student-centered university is the quality of the educational experience provided to students. In the College of Education, our undergraduate and graduate programs that serve as organizers for educational experiences must be designed and implemented to ensure student success. Student success must be couched in the fact that program graduates will work with learners with changing demographics, learning styles, prior experiences, and expectations. Graduates must understand the rapid changes occurring in the nature of learning, technologies, and schooling. To ensure student success, a faculty and staff are needed that are capable and caring, and sufficient in number. This faculty and staff must be provided with the resources and professional development opportunities to teach in programs that include global and real-life experiences, and that prepare responsive, productive, and critical citizens for a competitive 21st century workplace. (Addresses the President’s Strategic Themes I and II.)

Objective 1.1: Enhance the learning experiences of undergraduate and graduate students

Objective 1.2: Strengthen and transform undergraduate and graduate programs to develop the next generation of responsive, productive, and critical educational leaders and researchers

Goal 2: Make scholarship a more important feature of the College culture

President Keel has called for a cultural shift across the entire campus, from one where teaching is the central feature of our work to one where "teaching and research are paramount” to our future as a university. As a College of Education, research serves as the basis for our teaching and outreach. Thus, we must be the producers of the findings that influence our practice as well as the consumers of them. Our research is influenced by our understandings and capabilities as well as by our geographic location, programmatic strengths, and institutional history. Productivity in research and related creative endeavors will enhance our national reputation, the success of our students, and our ability to support
the work of colleagues and constituents. (Addresses the President’s Strategic Themes I and III.)

Objective 2.1: Enhance the research and creative activity of the College

Objective 2.2: Increase extramural funding to support the mission of the College

Objective 2.3: Expand opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student scholarship

**Goal 3: Enhance the College’s strategic partnerships and outreach endeavors**

The success of the College’s initial preparation and advanced programs is inextricably linked to its partnerships with schools, educational and community agencies, and other units of the University. These partnerships serve to provide the field-experience and research sites for students and faculty. These partnerships must be mutually beneficial, in that schools, agencies, and University units should realize advantages from their participation. Moreover, the College has an important role in informing educational practice, decision-making, and public opinion. Faculty teaching and research can serve as sources of information useful to constituencies of the College and University, and could be a source of revenue. Strategic outreach endeavors can function to improve education in Georgia, recruit students, and garner respect for the College and the education profession. (Addresses the President’s Strategic Themes I, II, III and IV.)

Objective 3.1: Institutionalize a range of partnerships in schools, the university, and in the community

Objective 3.2: Enhance the role of the College to inform educational practice and decision-making

**Goal 4: Maximize meaningful data-driven decision making in the College**

At a time when colleges of education are being asked to defend their resource requests and expenditures, decisions to improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness must be data-driven. Data must be continually collected and used to modify and improve the retention, progression, and graduation of our students; the quality of programs and the work of faculty, administrators, and staff; and the effective and efficient operations of the College. To take full advantage of the power of data, a robust and accessible longitudinal data system is required. This system will leverage multiple computer-based databases within a meaningful, comprehensive process. The College of Education must carefully examine its own operations and make data-driven decisions to improve efficiency while at the same time improving academic excellence and student learning and overall success. (Addresses the President’s Strategic Themes I and II.)

Objective 4.1: Enhance the data system that informs college-wide decisions

Objective 4.2: Implement continuous quality program improvement at the college, department, and program levels

**Goal 5: Broaden the overall revenue stream for the College**

In a financial climate of unpredictable state revenue, the College must seek ways to expand its revenue stream in order to meet its core obligations in instruction, scholarship, and outreach, and to invest in new ventures. Expansion of the revenue stream will involve
faculty, staff and our strategic partners in such activities as crafting proposals for research and professional development projects; distributing college-grown products and services; and enhancing and promoting conferences. Expansion of the revenue stream must also come about by the College developing the support of alumni and friends for its work. (Addresses the President’s Strategic Theme IV.)

Objective 5.1: Engage in activities that contribute to the College’s revenue stream

Objective 5.2: Build relationships with alumni and friends that will enhance annual giving and lead to major gifts

Objective 5.3: Work with alumni and friends of the College to identify financial needs and engage in activities to garner financial support