

## Foundational Dimensions®

The Foundational Dimensions are nine aspirational principles of excellence.

**Philosophy** is what the institution believes to be the primary purpose or rationale for the experiences of its students. This dimension relates to, but is not the mission or vision statements. It is the basis for organizational policies, practices, structure, leadership, and allocation of resources.

**Organization:** Organization is the key determinant of an institutions ability to provide comprehensive and flexible services to new students. The institution should be organized so as to deliver structures and services that facilitate new student transition and to serve students with specific needs. This dimension should support the achievement of the institutional philosophy.

**Learning** refers to experiences, both in and out of the classroom, that engage new students to promote critical thinking, ethical decision making, and lifelong pursuit of knowledge. Learning should be consistent with the institution's mission, students' academic and career goals, and workplace expectations.

**Campus Culture** consists of a culture of responsibility for the experiences of new students by administration, faculty, and staff. It is realized through high-quality instruction, services, supports, as well as substantial interactions with students both in and out of the classroom.

**Transitions** refer to the students' transition experience to and within the college. It involves the effectiveness of the institution's communication to new students about such things as expectations, out of class opportunities; student supports services, advising, etc. It also includes communication with secondary institutions, other postsecondary institutions, families, employers, and community agencies.

**All Students**, both traditional and non-traditional, should be ensured a campus environment that is safe and inclusive of their needs, abilities, backgrounds, interests, and experiences. The institution, on an on-going basis, should work to identify students' academic, social, and safety needs and adjust to meet those needs.

**Diversity** deals with how the institution ensures that students are exposed to diverse ideas, worldviews, and cultures as a means of enhancing their learning and participation in the community. It deals with how the institution approaches the topic of human differences both in an out of classroom.

**Roles and Purposes** of education include: personal growth, career enhancement, workplace preparation and retraining, transfer for additional education, engaged citizenship, and serving the public good. It promotes student understanding of these roles both for the individual and society.

**Improvement** refers to remaining current on relevant research and current practices in order to assess and provide feedback to: 1) students to guide their learning, 2) faculty to guide their teaching and 3) to the institution to guide planning, resource allocations, decision making, and improvement of programs and policies.