

Strategic Plan

College of Sciences and Technology

MISSION: The mission of the College of Sciences and Technology is to provide the highest quality education in science, mathematics and technology; to participate in the discovery, communication and application of knowledge; to integrate teaching, scholarly activity and service; and to maintain a diverse college community.

VISION: The College of Sciences and Technology seeks to be one of the nation's premier colleges of undergraduate and masters level science, mathematics, and technology, as well as a national leader in teacher education. We will achieve this by:

- Realizing the full creative intellectual potential of our students.
- Recruiting, developing and retaining the finest possible faculty and staff.
- Achieving diversity within the student body, faculty and staff.
- Participating in the discovery, communication, and application of knowledge within our disciplines.
- Fostering interest and literacy in science, mathematics, and technology and respect for the importance of scientific methods and discoveries among all Western students.
- Providing information and expertise on scientific and technological matters to the public.
- Supporting and developing high quality graduate programs in selected areas.
- Securing and managing the resources necessary to support our vision.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

What follows are objectives and actions of the College of Sciences and Technology for the coming five years. Each fall, the Policy, Planning and Budget Council will establish priorities among these goals and each spring review our progress towards these goals.

OBJECTIVE I: To realize the full creative intellectual potential of students in science, mathematics and technology.

ACTIONS: We seek to create a community of intellectually engaged, creative, thoughtful and well informed students. To do this we will:

1. Engage students in actions that develop creativity, critical thinking and the ability to apply skills to novel situations.
2. Engage students in the practice of their discipline by expanding research opportunities, capstone course experiences, internships, service learning, participation in professional conferences and industry collaboration.
3. Expand and improve instruction in written, visual and oral professional communication.
4. Expand and improve instruction which helps students situate their discipline in historical, political and social context.
5. Improve equipment and technical support for teaching, learning and scholarship.
6. Expand tutoring, advising, grading feedback, and mentoring opportunities together with the requisite resources.
7. Foster a campus community in which individual interaction between faculty and undergraduate students is encouraged and acknowledged.

OBJECTIVE II: Recruit, develop and retain excellent faculty and staff.

ACTIONS: We seek to create an environment that attracts and supports the highest quality faculty and staff. To achieve this we will:

1. Support recruitment by offering competitive faculty hiring salaries and start up packages, by establishing an effective mechanism for partner accommodation and by offering support for scholarship and teaching development.
2. Provide pro-active support to retain high quality faculty.
3. Support and reward special efforts and initiative in teaching.
4. Enhance faculty and staff professional development programs.
5. Seek funding for post-doctoral programs which combine teaching and research activities and for other visiting positions.
6. Ensure that the College and its departments clearly articulate processes and criteria for earning tenure, promotion and further professional development.
7. Support and recognize limited term faculty.

OBJECTIVE III: To achieve diversity within the student body, faculty and staff.

ACTIONS: We seek to create an open and welcoming environment that attracts and supports diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups and participates in the process of internationalization. To achieve this we will:

1. Engage in sustained outreach to underrepresented groups in K-12 schools and community colleges.
2. Recruit more international and non-resident students and offer sister university student/faculty exchanges.
3. Offer more diversity-focused scholarships and coordinate with the Provost's Diversity Scholarship program.
4. Recruit and retain faculty, staff and students from underrepresented groups.
5. Develop, where appropriate, curricula in CST that expose students to the intersection of science, technology and culture.

OBJECTIVE IV: Participate in the discovery, communication and application of knowledge within our disciplines.

ACTIONS: We strive to ensure that our faculty and students stay at the forefront of their disciplines, through participation in programs of active research and scholarship, and that new knowledge is communicated within the respective disciplines at the local, regional and national level. To achieve this we will:

1. Invest College resources to provide material support for scholarship, including relevant library materials and instrumentation.
2. Invest resources in personnel support, including increased staff support for research, technical, administrative, and clerical activities.
3. Invest resources in the acknowledgement of faculty research achievements, and support for professional development and service
4. Foster collaboration between local community colleges and WWU in advising and educating future teachers of science and mathematics.
5. Foster collaboration between the best practicing science and mathematics teachers in the local K-12 system and our pre-service students to provide the best possible placement of student teachers.
6. Expand support for specialist colloquia and professional meetings conducted at WWU.

OBJECTIVE V: Foster interest and literacy in science, mathematics and technology within the campus community.

ACTIONS: We seek to enhance and deepen the involvement and interest of all Western students, College majors and non-majors, in matters of mathematics, science and technology especially in areas of general economic, political/environmental and ethical concerns. To achieve this we will:

1. Increase First Year Experience science and technology courses, including those that are interdisciplinary.
2. Provide GUR courses and course series that integrate mathematics, technology and sciences and other disciplines.
3. Develop and support more interdisciplinary upper division courses.
4. Develop curricula and stay current in relevant matters of social and ethical concern.
5. Foster collaboration between departments within CST and Woodring College of Education in matters of teacher preparation.
6. Foster extracurricular activities that address science, mathematics and technology.

OBJECTIVE VI: Provide information and expertise on scientific and technological matters to the public.

ACTIONS: We seek to maintain a program of outreach to the community in which science, mathematics and technology topics of current importance are communicated to the public, in a program that distinguishes between science and science fiction, highlights issues of ethics and environmental concern, and popularizes good science. To achieve this we will:

1. Support public lecture series for both adults and school children in the community.
2. Support faculty and student involvement in community issues and discussion forums.
3. Continue to explore the opportunities for participation in the waterfront development.
4. Develop collaborations with museums, government agencies and other programs promoting science, technology and mathematics to those outside WWU.
5. Facilitate communication through the web, newsletters, and public lectures.
6. Encourage students, faculty and staff to showcase their activities through such events as student competitions, Scholars' Week and campus science fairs.

OBJECTIVE VII: Support high-quality graduate programs in areas where graduate work enhances the educational and scholarly objectives of the college and where there is regional need.

ACTIONS: We seek to maintain graduate programs that create opportunities to enhance faculty and undergraduate scholarship, promote advanced disciplinary studies in areas of established strengths and regional need, including teacher education, and seek leadership opportunities in emerging areas of societal need. To achieve this we will:

1. Seek increased and competitive stipends for graduate teaching and research assistants in the College.
2. Increase training and mentorship of graduate teaching assistants.
3. Seek increased resources for graduate student support, including research, travel to professional meetings and out-of-state tuition waivers.
4. Expand opportunities for interdisciplinary program innovation with a view to the recognition of niche needs.

OBJECTIVE VIII: Develop the resource base necessary to support our vision.

ACTIONS: In order to enhance and further develop the resource base of the College and its departments we will:

1. Develop a systematic program for maintaining communication with alumni, community members and emeritus faculty.
2. Encourage faculty to seek external funding opportunities where appropriate.
3. Develop an institutionalized approach to a system of high-quality advisory boards where appropriate.
4. Foster collaboration between WWU and regional industry.
5. Identify and cultivate prospective groups and individuals for gifts to the College and the departments.