



AN UPDATE ON OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

WE BEGAN THE CONVERSATION

In conversations with faculty and staff at Professional Association and Classified Staff meetings in March, we identified some core tenets of the planning process: it should be participatory, collaborative, exploratory, comprehensive, decisive, inventive, and transparent. Our conversations centered on three key questions that yielded meaningful ideas from participants:

Why HCC?

One powerful underlying theme that emerged was a strong belief in the potential within every student as well as a commitment to student success. Again and again I heard, “We believe in the transformative power of education.” “We believe in the need for an educated citizenry.” “We believe there is strength in our diversity.” “We believe that education means a better future for all members of our community.” In other words, we are passionate about our mission! This will continue to be an ongoing conversation throughout the strategic planning process.

Why a strategic plan?

A strategic plan affords the opportunity to assess our institutional identity, our strengths and weaknesses, our capacity to fully support our students, and our role in the communities we serve. It is a time to reflect on our mission, vision and values and envision the HCC of the future. From this process emerges a set of priorities, strategies and a framework that will guide our future investments and enable us to maximize our potential in order to meet the needs of the region.

What do we need to unlearn?

To encourage our community to think broadly and differently, I asked: “What do we need to *unlearn* at HCC?” Comments included, “We need to unlearn the way students access HCC.” “We need to redefine success.” “We need to examine our assumptions about who is going to be in the classroom.” “We need to reconsider the belief that we only exist in this physical space, and even the notion that we are a *two-year* college,” we also heard, “We need to unlearn how we tell our story.” Unlearning is as much a part of the process as learning and relearning are to creating our future.

WE CREATED A THEME

Through an interactive presentation at the final Professional Association meeting and a

survey distributed to students, faculty and staff, members of the HCC community chose a theme to express the spirit of the planning process: **Forward, Further: The Future of HCC**. In response to your feedback, we changed the photo, revised the color palette and condensed the tagline to Forward, Further: HCC. Going forward, you'll see a variety of HCC images and complementary graphics in our planning messages and materials. Thank you all for your participation!

WE CHOSE A PARTNER

I am pleased to announce that we have chosen CampusWorks, a consulting firm with broad experience in higher education, to assist us with our strategic planning process. CampusWorks staff will help us through all parts of the process, from assessment and analysis to establishing goals, developing an implementation plan, and measuring success.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We will be launching the Strategic Planning process on the morning of August 30. CampusWorks will be on campus to facilitate this process. During this time we will provide more detailed information, including the ways in which you can participate. Please check your email in the next few weeks for a schedule of the day's activities.

All employees are encouraged to attend.

I hope you are finding time to rest, replenish and enjoy the summer! I look forward to seeing you at our meeting in August.

Christina Royal
President

Connect with us

