



**SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
DISTRICT 522**

BOARD POLICY

TITLE:	Educational Philosophy
CODE:	1005
DATE ADOPTED:	March 20, 1991
DATE REVIEWED:	8/92, 8/98, 11/10, 8/20
DATE AMENDED:	10/92, 1/99, 12/10, 09/20

Southwestern Illinois College is committed to serving unmet educational needs and desires within the local community. With an open door to all who can benefit from its services, the college is charged with enlarging educational opportunity by providing comprehensive, quality education to the citizenry in close proximity to the student's home.

Every person, regardless of age, ability or disability, race, color, sex, creed, sexual orientation, or national origin, shall have the opportunity to develop his or her best self, and to continue appropriate education to the level of optimum achievement. The college mission is to reach all citizens of our district.

Southwestern Illinois College recognizes the learning needs, interests, abilities and aspirations of community residents are many and varied. The college is committed to serving diversified educational needs by providing a comprehensive educational program. To fulfill its unique role in the community, the college needs to be innovative, imaginative and creative. It must be willing both to draw upon tradition and to forego tradition when the best interests of the individual and the community so dictate.

The college works closely with other agencies and organizations; together, these form a network of local, regional, state and federal agencies which work cooperatively to meet human needs and to improve the quality of life.

The College and the Community

The college is dedicated to the service of the community which has brought it into being. It must function as an integral part of the community, inviting local participation in the formulation of its programs and involving the community in the fulfillment of its mission.

To achieve and maintain its mission, the college must be responsive to employment needs and trends, both of individuals, industries and other agencies; assist in the satisfaction of human needs and the achievement of human aspirations; contribute to the discussion, clarification and resolution of societal problems; and should act to stimulate and enrich the intellectual and cultural life of the community it serves.

The effectiveness of the college depends upon the extent to which it serves the community. Ongoing self-examination and evaluation shall be directed toward the performance of the college in carrying out its mission.

In an effort to better serve the community, the college has taken its programs to the geographical and population centers of the district. The college's campuses and many extension center sites reflect the integration of the college into the community.

The College and Its Programs

The philosophy of Southwestern Illinois College is operationalized in the programs it conducts. These are:

1. **The First Two Years of Baccalaureate Education** consisting of liberal arts, sciences, and pre-professional fields designed to prepare students for transfer to four year colleges and universities and/or designed to meet individual educational goals.
2. **Career Education** including occupational, vocational, technical and semi technical fields designed to provide job training, retraining, and/or upgrading of skills to meet individual, local and state employment needs.
3. **Developmental Education** including preparatory or developmental instruction designed to facilitate students' academic progress and to prepare them effectively for future educational and career success.
4. **General Studies** consisting of adult basic education and career related and general interest courses designed to address specific occupational certification requirements and/or to meet individual educational goals.
5. **Community Education** consisting of flexible, non-credit adult continuing education classes designed to meet individual educational, recreational, and personal interest goals.
6. **Student Services** including but not limited to admissions, advising, testing, tutoring, placement, special assistance for students with special needs, and financial assistance, designed to assist and support students in achieving their educational goals.
7. **Public Service Activities** of a broad nature which may include workshops, seminars, forums, cultural enrichment, social service programs, college facility usage, and special studies designed to meet community service needs. Specific organizational units created to address these needs include the Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP) and the Industrial Technology Center.