

WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOFT SKILLS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Dr. Bradley Ebersole, President

Dr. Mark Nutter, Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Ohio



MISSION AND VISION

Washington State Community College

MISSION STATEMENT

Washington State Community College responds to the education and workforce needs of our community by providing dynamic and affordable associate degree and certificate programs in an atmosphere that promotes student success.

VISION

Our vision is to inspire and facilitate individual excellence and success.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Teaching & Learning
- Student Success
- College of First Choice
- Engage and Serve Adult Learners
- Community and Economic Development
 - *Promote and train in the soft skills*

Advisory Committee Members Have Spoken!

Although some soft skills are specific to industry, three general action steps stand out:

Improve Communication Skills

Expect Professional Conduct

Provide Professional Development for Faculty

OVERVIEW

Feedback from Advisory Committee Meetings

December 2015 workshop with faculty and staff

Virginia's Community College Soft Skills Initiative

Faculty Awareness and Adoption of Soft Skills

While we are aware of the need for “soft skills” the faculty and staff can become better at recognizing them, ensuring that both they and their students practice them regularly.

. Goals:

- Guided by participants in the workshop, faculty will engage in discussion about soft skills and our role in encouraging them in our students
- Professional development opportunities will be provided during each semester
- Faculty and staff will exhibit the very best behaviors that we want to cultivate in our students

High Standards in Communication

In order to increase soft skills in communication, we need to hold students responsible for a standard set of skills in communication through reading, writing, email, and oral communication.

Goals:

- Adapt the college-wide writing rubric to apply to all forms of communication
- Share the rubric across the college by the end of spring 2016
- Share with students and hold them accountable starting fall 2016

Career Assessments

We recognize that students who are matched with their program of study will be more motivated to succeed than those who are not.

- Goals:
 - Find a constant method to provide initial assessment during admission
 - Assist students in understanding their strengths and weaknesses
 - Ensure that students have access to information about their intended career

WHAT'S NEXT???

Early Spring

Brown Bag Lunches in our Center for Teaching & Learning

Faculty Survey

Creation of Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Soft Skills Project Team

Late Spring

Development of Communication Standards Rubric

Professional Development during May In-Service

Summer/Fall 2016

Project implementation continues