

Statement of Purpose and Mission – A History

Dalton State College has a clearly defined statement of purpose. This statement has been the subject of several revisions over the past 12 years. The first revision took place in 1996 when the Board of Regents took action under the “Mission Development and Review Policy Direction” to revise the mission statements of the University System of Georgia and its 34 colleges and universities to incorporate a common set of core purposes. The second revision arose from the recommendations of the North Georgia Planning Council that led to approval of a change in mission for the College by the Board of Regents. The change, which called for the College to provide “a limited number of baccalaureate programs designed to meet the educational and economic development needs of the local area,” authorized the institution to offer an initial group of two Bachelor of Science degrees effective in the fall of 1999, with a Bachelor of Applied Science to follow in the fall of 2000. Also, in November of 1998, as part of this process, the Board approved a name change from Dalton College to Dalton State College to reflect the institution’s new mission. The third and most recent revision stemmed from a key priority of the 2006-2010 *Strategic Plan* that called for the need to “articulate a well-defined mission, image, and identity to be shared with the College community.” A goal was established to “revisit the College’s mission statement,” whereby the president appointed a faculty-staff committee to review DSC’s statement of purpose and mission and invite the campus community to offer input and suggestions. The committee submitted a revised statement of purpose and mission to the president in November 2006, and the faculty adopted the revision at its December 2006 meeting. At its meeting in June 2007, the Board of Regents approved the revised statement of purpose and mission.

Dalton State College is dedicated to providing broad access to quality higher education for the population of Northwest Georgia, thereby enhancing the region’s economic vitality and quality of life. As an institution of the University System of Georgia, Dalton State College offers targeted bachelor’s degrees, a full range of associate’s degrees and career certificate programs, and a wide variety of public service and continuing education activities. The College’s work is strengthened by partnerships between the College and Northwest Georgia businesses and industries, governments, and schools.

The mission of Dalton State College consists of the following core commitments:

- 1) selection, support, and development of a talented, caring faculty and staff dedicated to scholarship and creating an open, cooperative, technologically enhanced learning environment;*
- 2) excellence in a learning environment dedicated to serving a diverse student body, promoting high levels of student achievement, and providing a range of educational and student life opportunities and appropriate academic support services;*
- 3) public service through continuing education, economic development, and cultural activities that address the needs and improve the quality of life of the region;*
- 4) continuous improvement in all aspects of its operations through the use of inclusive, participatory planning and meaningful assessment.*

In fulfilling its mission, Dalton State College seeks to prepare and inspire its students to be active members within their profession and communities. As Dalton State College looks to the future and its place in a competitive, global society, it seeks to build upon its strengths as one of the most academically respected, student-oriented, and community-centered institutions of its kind.