

West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Meeting of September 23, 2010

ITEM: Modifications to WVSU Mission Statement

AREA: University-wide

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of removal of references to associate degrees and insertion of references to master's degrees in WVSU Mission Statement

PRESENTER: Dr. R. Charles Byers, Vice President for Academic Affairs

BACKGROUND:

The current Mission Statement of West Virginia State University is the result of extensive participation of the constituents of the University to develop a statement in September, 2001 that reflected the purpose of the institution together with the values that guide decisions and behavior. The Statement was modified on December 9, 2004 to

- Substitute "University" for "College" and
- Change the second paragraph to recognize the independence of the West Virginia State Community and Technical College

The Mission Statement was further modified on September 10, 2009 to remove reference to the "West Virginia State Community and Technical College" since it was by then an independent institution separate in administration from the University and from this Board of Governors. While the name of the institution was removed from the Mission Statement, references to associate degree programs inadvertently were not. This revision removes in the second and the fourth paragraphs the references to "associate degree" programs and replaces reference to "graduate education" with "master's degrees" and "graduate offerings" with "graduate programs."

West Virginia State University - Mission Statement

Founded in 1891, **West Virginia State University** is a public, land-grant, historically black university, which has evolved into a fully accessible, racially integrated, and multi-generational institution. The University, "a living laboratory of human relations," is a community of students, staff, and faculty committed to academic growth, service, and preservation of the racial and cultural diversity of the institution. Our mission is to meet higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research.

The undergraduate education at the University offers comprehensive and distinguished baccalaureate ~~and associate degree~~ programs in business, liberal arts, professional studies, sciences, and social sciences. In addition, the University provides master's degrees and other opportunities for graduate education.

West Virginia State University offers encouragement and education through flexible course offerings in traditional classrooms, in non-traditional education settings, and through distance learning technologies. With the goal of improving the quality of our students' lives, as well as the quality of life for West Virginia's citizens, the University forges mutually beneficial relationships with other educational institutions, businesses, cultural organizations, governmental agencies, and agricultural and extension partners.

The following values guide our decisions and behavior:

- academic excellence;
- academic freedom;
- advancement of knowledge through teaching, research, scholarship, creative endeavor, and community service;
- a core of student learning that includes effective communication, understanding and analysis of the interconnections of knowledge, and responsibility for one's own learning;
- lifelong growth, development, and achievement of our students;
- development of human capacities for integrity, compassion, and citizenship;
- our rich and diverse heritage;
- personal and professional development of our faculty and staff; and
- accountability through shared responsibility and continuous improvement.

West Virginia State University is a vibrant community in which those who work, teach, live, and learn do so in an environment that reflects the diversity of America. Our comprehensive campus provides vast opportunities for our students. We take great pride in our accomplishments and envision building upon ~~associate degree programs, our~~ baccalaureate education, and graduate offerings, programs and our excellence in teaching, research, and service.

Approved by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission - **September 21, 2001**

Modified by the West Virginia State University Board of Governors - **December 9, 2004;**
September 10, 2009