

NEASC STANDARD ONE MISSION AND PURPOSES

The institution's mission and purposes are appropriate to higher education, consistent with its charter or other operating authority, and implemented in a manner that complies with the Standards of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. The institution's mission gives direction to its activities and provides a basis for the assessment and enhancement of the institution's effectiveness.

DESCRIPTION

In 1789, in a codicil to his will, Benjamin Franklin bequeathed £1000 sterling to the people of Boston to further the careers of the town's young apprentices. In keeping with the tradition of this legacy, the Massachusetts State Legislature established the Franklin Union in 1905. Its mission was to prepare its programs' graduates for immediate employment in a chosen career field while simultaneously giving them a technical education upon which they could continue to build. The present Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology is the descendant institution of the original Franklin Union.

The current mission statement and the corresponding statement of the College's values were developed in spring 2010 and approved by the Board of Directors in July 2010. The latest version of the mission statement held by the College in recent years reflects Benjamin Franklin's views on education and citizenship.

Mission & Values Statement

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology offers education to students pursuing career-based paths. The College strives to develop technical and professional skills as well as individual values that help to create a foundation for success, civic responsibility and life-long learning. The College adheres to the principles put forth by our benefactor Benjamin Franklin in his writings about education and citizenship.

We value our diverse community and the fostering of a supportive learning environment. We are committed to creating opportunity by working closely with industry and community partners to prepare our students for life-long learning in an increasingly interdependent world. Our academic programs and co-curricular efforts reflect our commitment to the fundamental principles of an educated person. We value the following skills and attributes and actively promote their development through College-wide initiatives so that every student:

- *Possesses the technical skills to enter the workforce or go on to further education.*
- *Demonstrates professionalism through leadership, a strong work ethic, and teamwork.*
- *Communicates effectively both professionally and personally.*
- *Utilizes critical thinking and various approaches to problem solving.*
- *Possesses the life-long skills to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively*
- *Understands the impact of sustainable development.*

- *Is globally and ethically responsible and civically engaged.*

The current mission is a revision of the 2008 Mission and Values Statement that resulted from the College's Strategic Planning Process in 2007/08. In spring 2010 and as a start to our NEASC Self-Study, the Board of Directors, Administration, Faculty, and Staff were invited to participate in a facilitated "visioning event" that also included eight representatives of the student body who participated fully in the daylong workshop. The resulting document provided the NEASC Standard One Committee with appropriate input to move forward with the charge of revising the mission statement and creating the values and vision statements. Drafts of those statements were submitted to the community for further review, leading to a second community forum to gather additional input and to refine the language of the statements. The President of the College updated the Mission and Values Statement as part of a new strategic plan that was approved by the Board of Directors in March 2011 and presented to the BFIT community for review.

The Mission and Values statement of the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology continues to provide a clear definition of the College's purpose. The College continues to attract a diverse student body seeking an education that prepares them for rewarding careers in technical fields. BFIT serves a culturally diverse student population that has demonstrated a need for fundamental and advanced technical training. BFIT provides employable skills as well as the opportunity to continue on the path of higher education, allowing students to realize lifelong goals.

Vision Statement

Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology will be a best-in-its-class College that provides a supportive learning environment and offers innovative, practical and entrepreneurial education resulting in career-ready, productive and civically-engaged citizens.

The College is committed to the periodic review of its Mission and Values Statement to ensure that the statement continues to capture the College's unique character, the relevancy of its programs, and the opportunities it provides.

APPRAISAL

Strengths

- The entire BFIT community has a strong and enveloping sense of the College's mission and purpose. The community has devoted itself to providing an educational experience that is in keeping with the demands of ever-changing technology and the demands of the workplace. The College remains committed to working with a diverse student body, and through its programming and supportive environment, focuses on providing a variety of opportunities for career advancement.
- BFIT has adopted College-wide initiatives that serve to provide the skills and awareness needed in the workplace. The initiatives are deeply rooted in community's belief and commitment to the

mission. Students are made aware of their importance from the outset of their education at the College. The faculty is actively involved in an ongoing dialogue in an effort to foster the enhancement of the initiatives and the importance they play in the holistic education of the students. Service learning activities and the implementation of a professionalism rubric by several departments are examples of how the College-wide initiatives are being addressed.

- The College has implemented a program of outcome assessment and academic program review to ensure that it provides a foundation for success, civic responsibility, and life-long learning for each of its students. Together they play a role in the creation of a framework for institutional effectiveness and are supported by the BFIT administration. Recent curriculum changes in the Computer Technologies and Architectural Technology Departments are the result of the assessment process.

Concerns

- A major focus for any career-oriented college like BFIT is obtaining employer feedback on graduates, enabling the College to gauge the success of their programs and College-wide initiatives. BFIT does not currently have enough personnel to facilitate this endeavor given the amount of data that needs to be gathered and analyzed. The current Director of Career Services has made progress in this regard, through employer surveys and anecdotal evidence, but there is continued need for additional personnel.
- The Director of Career Services has the additional role of organizing the College's internship programs. The College's efforts to provide the technical and professional skills can be greatly improved with the inclusion of real-world work experience for each of our programs. Currently the Opticianry, Ophthalmic Assisting, Medical Electronics Engineering Technology, Computer Technology, Electronic Engineering Technology and Automotive Technology programs include some type of real world work experience, but to create a comprehensive internship program for each of the major programs is not possible given current staffing at the College.
- The College has taken initial steps to provide the support and training necessary to bring about an environment that promotes civic engagement for the students. The College has benefitted from the addition of a grant-funded AmeriCorps* VISTA Volunteer who acts as the Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Leadership to manage these efforts. Through civic engagement information sessions, and service learning projects in multiple courses, students have become increasingly aware of the opportunities to be involved in the community. There is a need to provide funding and institutional support beyond the duration of the grant in order to ensure that students are "globally and ethically responsible and civically engaged".
- Plans to increase future enrollment should better coincide with an increase in resources and personnel, including advisors, to foster a more supportive learning environment and academic success. The College needs to improve existing strategies to improve retention, as well develop new retention initiatives.

Projection

- The College will hire an Assistant Director, reporting to the Director of Career Services, to aid in developing real-world work experiences for existing and new programs and collect employer data. The position will be filled by September 2011.
- The College will ensure that efforts to increase the opportunities for students to participate in civic engagement activities will extend beyond the duration of the grant-funded program currently in place. The Assistant Director will report to the Director of Student Involvement and Leadership. This position will be filled, subject to the availability of budgetary funds.
- The College will hire full-time advisors and provide additional training for faculty and staff who currently serve as advisors. The College will also research ways to increase the level and extent of its academic support efforts in order to ensure that the supportive environment that is currently provided continues to improve. The College will allocate physical and financial resources for a major renovation of the Advising Center by January 2012.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

With participation from the College community, BFIT has closely examined, refined, and endorsed its mission and purpose statements. These statements are utilized as the foundation for all activities, including assessment and enhancement of the College's effectiveness.

STANDARD ONE - DATA FIRST FORM

Document	URL	Date Approved by the Governing Board
Institutional Mission Statement	http://www.bfit.edu/Academics/Catalogs/default.aspx	March 2011

Mission Statement published URL

Print Publication

1 Mission Statement	http://www.bfit.edu/Academics/Catalogs/default.aspx	College Catalog
2 Mission Statement	http://www.bfit.edu/StudentLife/default.aspx	Student Handbook &
3 Mission Statement	N/A	Employee Handbook
4 Mission Statement	N/A	Strategic Plan

Related statements

URL

Print Publication

1 Vision Statement	http://www.bfit.edu/Academics/Catalogs/default.aspx	College Catalog
2 Vision Statement	http://www.bfit.edu/StudentLife/default.aspx	Student Handbook &
3 Vision Statement	N/A	Strategic Plan
4 Vision Statement	N/A	Employee Handbook
4 Institutional Values	http://www.bfit.edu/Academics/Catalogs/default.aspx	College Catalog
5 Institutional Values	http://www.bfit.edu/StudentLife/default.aspx	Student Handbook & Planner
6 Institutional Values	N/A	Employee Handbook

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