

Draft Mission and Vision Statement College-wide Feedback



**2022-2027 Strategic Planning Calls to Conversation Feedback (Spring 2023)
Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness**

Introduction: On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, Wednesday, March 8, 2023, and Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the Mission and Vision subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Council in collaboration with Dr. Bonahue hosted calls to conversations on the Eastern, Grant, and Ammerman campuses, respectively. These conversations, held in-person and virtually, provided students, staff, faculty, and administrators an opportunity to give honest feedback on the mission and vision statements drafted by the subcommittee. Three notetakers were present at each of the meetings to ensure comments given by the college community were captured and incorporated, where appropriate, within the mission and vision statements and/or strategic planning next steps.

Below are the draft mission and vision statements presented to the college community, and the tables that follow encompass the feedback captured from all three campus conversations.

Draft Mission Statement #1: *SUNY Suffolk is a student-centered college community that serves the needs of Suffolk County and beyond by providing open access to outstanding educational opportunities.*

Draft Mission Statement #2: *SUNY Suffolk is a student-centered college community serving the needs of Suffolk County and beyond by providing open access to exceptional educational opportunities.*

Draft Vision Statement #1: *SUNY Suffolk is the preferred and preeminent education partner for all Suffolk County's families, businesses, and communities.*

Draft Vision Statement #2: *SUNY Suffolk will be the education partner of choice for all Suffolk County's families, businesses, and communities.*

Mission Feedback	Vision Feedback	General Feedback
Student: Likes mission statement number one. Prefers the word outstanding v. exceptional. Leaves us room to always strive to do better.	Administrator: Likes vision statement number two. It strikes a chord.	Faculty: Questioned by student-centered college community was used versus student-centered community college.
Faculty: Mission statement number one sounds better from a sentence diagram standpoint	Administrator: Looks like vision implies to be preeminent and popular. Is there more specific language that we can aspire to? Celebrate us as an institution, because we see how many people in the community are a direct product of the college and do we aspire to be regarded highly and can that be incorporated in some way	Executive: College community v. community college felt that the reversal grounded us in relationships and building community. Some in the community hear SUNY Suffolk and asked questions about the affiliation - ‘do our credits transfer?’ not realizing that we are part of the SUNY system
Faculty: Why not include “and beyond” in both mission and vision statements?	Faculty: Likes SUNY Suffolk terminology. Website is sunysuffolk.edu, so we do have that connection. Is there any thought to mentioning/attracting long island’s families - emphasizing we serve across Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk to take advantage of our program? Maybe it’s the region? Regional educational partner of choice? Other language	Faculty: Can someone explain how all this excellence is going to be created by adjuncts who have no stake in the institution?
Faculty: Possibly include a bit more of the “how” in the mission statement. For example, providing high quality education and promotion of economic	Faculty: Liked that preeminent stays crossed out. Better formulation be vision statement number two.	Student: Does SUNY Suffolk represent who we really are?
Prefers the word “exceptional” instead of outstanding.	Faculty: Do not like the word “preferred” in vision statement number one.	Faculty: What does academic integrity fall under?
Administrator: On the mission statement, do you think it would be good to include both educational and workforce opportunities?	Faculty: “And beyond” is not mentioned in the vision statement but is in the mission statement. Vision only speaks to local experience.	Faculty: The Kennedy Center has been calling us SUNY Suffolk for the past 10 years.
Administrator: Include academics and the trades	Faculty: Concerned with “and beyond” in relation to tax payer dollars.	Faculty: There is a Suffolk University in Massachusetts
Student: To get students beyond we need that transformation and change. Words that emphasize and help students that go beyond. Suffolk has been a vital part of me being the student I want to be. I think we need that kind of wordage.	Do we want to use the word County more explicitly in the vision?	Faculty: Interested to find out why pre-eminent was not striking the right note. Sometimes we shy away from it.

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<p>Administrator: There is something powerful about the transformational power at Suffolk. We give them the second change that they haven't found some place else, the caring community, etc. The notion that education changes student's live is something that we shouldn't lose track of.</p>	<p>Administrator: The vision statement doesn't call out students. Do we want it mentioned anywhere in the statement?</p>	<p>Faculty: There is a Suffolk University in England</p>
<p>Faculty: I would be in favor of keeping community college in our mission and vision. Our identity as a community college helps distinguish ourselves from other institution types, as offering a comprehensive curriculum (development ed, transfer, workforce, etc.).</p>	<p>Suggested Revision: SUNY Suffolk is the most accessible college serving students, families and businesses in the region.</p>	<p>Administrator: If using SUNY Suffolk, signage would have to be changed internally and externally.</p>
<p>Administrator: I like statements number two on both the mission and vision statements. I love the name SUNY Suffolk.</p>	<p>Faculty: Like vision statement number two. The "will be" is looking forward. It gives us wiggle room.</p>	<p>Faculty: On the college website we use a variety of names. This conversation helps us around consistent conversations about branding</p>
<p>Faculty: Regarding identity, we have some students and families (typically those newer to our area) who think they can earn a bachelors or graduate degree with us, so keeping community college to SUNY Suffolk name may prove valuable.</p>	<p>Student: Partner of choice is a step down from preferred. Students like preferred because it's more direct and assertive. I like simple and precise over lengthy</p>	<p>Faculty: SUNY Suffolk helps with conversations with high school counselors</p>
<p>Administrator: Was there consideration for leaving some of the items in the previous mission statement in the new statement (i.e., transformation).</p>	<p>Faculty: The statements seem a bit dishonest. We're not the preferred choice and there's nothing wrong with that. We serve a purpose and we're a choice. My biggest issue is with the "all". I think it's overreaching. I know for a fact that SUNY Suffolk is not preferred or the first choice for Suffolk County families and communities.</p>	<p>Student: Sometimes students get confused with SCC in Schenectady.</p>
<p>Faculty: I'd be sad if we took ethical awareness out of our mission.</p>	<p>Faculty: "Of choice" seems like overreach; also "families" downplays the importance of adult learners</p>	<p>Administrator: People didn't know that we were a part of SUNY.</p>

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Administrator: In the mission statement- SUNY Suffolk is a college community (may be perceived as a typo since we are a community college).	Administrator: Is there a way to state that we are striving to be the college of choice?	Administrator: Regarding being a part of the SUNY system, this is a common topic with international students. Applicants don't always understand the transfer process between SUNY schools.
	Suggested Revision: SUNY Suffolk is the education partner for Suffolk County students, businesses, and communities. Suffolk has earned and grown its position in the county over the years.	Administrator: We do not use SCCC on publications and institutional communications.
	Student: Mission is present and vision is future. Vision statement is something we're constantly working towards. There's an opportunity for us to become the "preferred choice". From a student's perspective, I think we have the potential. Partner is multiple and preferred scales it down. As a student Suffolk was my first choice. I know that's rare. Mention preferred as much as we possibly can in statements like this.	Faculty: SMART goals and objectives should clearly arise from mission statements.
	Student: Suffolk County is an exceptional institution. In favor of celebrating our exceptional programs while realizing that we don't necessarily need to be preferred but we can be their first choice.	Faculty: "Ethical awareness" stimulated great discussions in my stats classes
	Administrator: I wouldn't include citizens or residents because non-citizens and residents are also students here. Is there another word for "individual" that doesn't sound cold? Students, families, businesses, etc.?	
	Faculty: There imply that Suffolk should aspire to be the first choice to meet the needs of EVERY student. The statement should include the qualifier of 2-year colleges.	
	Faculty: Perhaps we can substitute aspires to in place of will in vision statement number two.	

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	<p>Suggested Revision: SUNY Suffolk is a student-centered community college accessible to all communities and businesses in the county and beyond.</p>	<p>Faculty: Planning and decision making assesses risks and benefits. Planners have to decide where they fit in that continuum. Do you want to minimize our risks or maximize our benefits? Do we want to make our mission and vision so general so as to not offend? Or so specific so as to fit squarely in an evidence-based paradigm?</p>
	<p>Faculty: If this hasn't been asked yet: Could the vision statement be enhanced by adding how we are going to achieve this vision. For example, through collaboration...providing high quality education and/or promoting economic growth.</p>	<p>Faculty: Students probably won't read our strategic plan.</p>
		<p>Faculty: Our explicit declaration of ethical awareness gives me the courage to step firmly into my academic freedom to pick examples that connect syllabus content to the leading edges of our reality.</p>
		<p>Faculty: We have programs such as auto tech that are regional programs- no Auto Tech in Nassau</p>
		<p>Faculty: The community colleges in upstate NY that have residence halls are actively on Long Island/NYC high schools, and throughout the state</p>