

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Initial Input: Plan Purposes, Uses, Stakeholders, and Themes**

**Plan Purposes:** Through our strategic planning process, the North Carolina Community College System will clearly define its role in a changing educational world and adopt a plan to reassert its role in workforce development. The plan will serve the following purposes:

- To set directions and priorities
- To get everyone on the same page
- To simplify decision making
- To drive alignment
- To communicate our message

**Plan Uses:** The strategic plan will have multiple uses. Some of the most important ones include:

- Promoting a clear and consistent message about NC Community Colleges
- Guiding NCCCS budget development
- Guiding thinking for legislative priorities and share our vision with policy makers
- Promoting accountability (e.g., tracking implementation of plan priorities)
- Aiding in making decisions and focusing on priorities
- Inspire our community college “family” and promote cohesion

**Key Stakeholders:** While stakeholders will necessarily have varying degrees of engagement, this process will seek to engage, at minimum, the following groups:

- State Board of Community College and System Office leadership
- Community college leadership, leveraging community college associations and leader networks (NCACCP, NCACCT, other community college associations, Student Success Center)
- Students, including NC4SGA leadership
- Business and industry, building off recent industry association engagement efforts
- General Assembly and Governor
- Education partners (Public schools, UNC, NC Independent Colleges and Universities, etc.)
- Economic and workforce development community
- Foundation partners (Gates, JFF, Lumina, Belk Endowment, etc.) and nonprofits
- Local government (NC Association County Commissioners) and community partners

**Scope:** To organize and facilitate deliberation on key issues, the planning process will be structured around four, mutually-reinforcing themes:

- 1) Student Interest and Access: Overcome various barriers to higher education access, including cost, debt, fear, and lack of information or lack of interest in community colleges or careers requiring a community college education. Increase the reach of community colleges and the share of the population seeking post-secondary education.

- 2) Clear and Supported Pathways for Student Progress and Success: Through a “One Door” approach, support students through their attainment of a degree/credential and successful transfer to a four-year institution or successful entrance into the workforce. Provide top-notch instruction and clear career pathways. Align instruction with K-12 and university education.
- 3) Economic and Workforce Impact: Supply the volume and type of talent needed by business and industry, as defined by business and industry. Enable individuals to achieve their economic potential and navigate a changing economy.
- 4) Organizational Effectiveness: Support a cohesive system of nimble, community-driven colleges and empowered college faculty and staff. Improve institutional capacity to support and reduce operational risk that could undermine the System’s mission.