



Faculty Council of Community Colleges
Recognizing the Intersection Between Liberal Arts Education and
Workforce Development
DEI1. 2023-2024
Passed by the FCCC
April 13, 2024

WHEREAS the FCCC recognizes the invaluable contributions of both liberal arts education and workforce development to the holistic development of students and the advancement of society; and

WHEREAS liberal arts education provides students with a broad-based, interdisciplinary foundation that fosters critical thinking, creativity, communication skills, ethical reasoning, and cultural awareness, all of which are essential for success in a rapidly-changing global economy; and

WHEREAS workforce development initiatives equip students with the specific skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to thrive in diverse professional settings and meet the evolving needs of industries and employers; and

WHEREAS the intersection between liberal arts education and workforce development represents a synergistic approach to education that combines the intellectual breadth and depth of the liberal arts with the practical, hands-on training and experiential learning opportunities provided by workforce development programs; and

WHEREAS employers increasingly value employees who possess not only technical skills but also the ability to think critically, adapt to change, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and demonstrate cultural competence—attributes that are cultivated through a liberal arts education; and

WHEREAS integrating liberal arts education principles into workforce development initiatives can enhance the effectiveness and relevance of vocational training programs by fostering

creativity, innovation, problem-solving abilities, and a deeper understanding of the social, ethical, and cultural contexts of work; and

WHEREAS promoting collaboration and partnership between academic departments, career services offices, industry partners, and community organizations can facilitate the seamless integration of liberal arts education and workforce development, providing students with a comprehensive educational experience that prepares them for success in both their careers and their lives beyond graduation; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the FCCC calls upon the SUNY Chancellor and SUNY Board of Trustees to reaffirm SUNY's commitment to fostering the intersection between liberal arts education and workforce development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FCCC calls upon the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of trustees to pledge:

- To promote interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation across academic departments, career services offices, and industry partners to integrate liberal arts education principles into workforce development initiatives.
- To provide students with opportunities for experiential learning, internships, co-operative education, and community engagement that bridge the gap between theory and practice and cultivate essential skills for career readiness.
- To support faculty in developing innovative curriculum designs, pedagogical approaches, and assessment methods that incorporate liberal arts education principles into vocational training programs and workforce development initiatives.
- To advocate for the value of liberal arts education in preparing students for the workforce and promote awareness among employers, policymakers, and stakeholders about the skills and competencies developed through a liberal arts education.
- To invest in resources, infrastructure, and professional development opportunities that facilitate the seamless integration of liberal arts education and workforce development across the institution.
- To evaluate and assess the impact of initiatives that promote the intersection between liberal arts education and workforce development on student learning outcomes, career success, and overall institutional effectiveness.