REVISION OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

The Shepherd University Strategic Planning Committee has been working since the beginning of the academic year to develop a new comprehensive strategic plan for the University.

The Committee has labored through an extensive review of what the University aspires to be as an institution of higher education. Input has been solicited and received from throughout the University community.

The current Mission Statement was last modified to reflect the separation of the community and technical college. It reads as follows:

Shepherd University, a fully accredited public institution of higher education founded in 1871 and located in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, offers a wide variety of distinguished degree programs and other learning opportunities to both traditional and nontraditional students. Our University attracts students from the region, the nation, and beyond. Understanding the importance of diversity, we continue to work toward recruiting and retaining a multicultural student body, faculty, and staff.

The heart of our baccalaureate curriculum is a formal General Studies Program that prepares a student to take his or her place as an educated citizen in a changing world. The University is committed, as well, to developing and implementing a selected number of graduate programs.

At Shepherd University we are dedicated to expanding our intellectual and cultural resources with the assistance of technological advances and our advantageous location just 70 miles from the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area. At the same time, the small, residential setting of the University creates an environment in which students are able to work closely with faculty, staff, and administrators who encourage their intellectual growth, personal fulfillment, and academic and professional excellence. Student learning is central to the culture of our institution, and finding ways to improve student learning is a continuing process.

Shepherd University, through its alliances with business organizations, industry, and government agencies, promotes economic development in the region. The University enhances the cultural atmosphere of the community with performing arts activities, public lectures, and athletic events. Outreach experiences, such as student internships and cooperative agreements, also link the University to the life of the community.

The faculty, staff, and administration of Shepherd University are dedicated to remaining in the forefront of advances in contemporary education and professional programs as we serve our students, community, and region in the 21st century.
A consensus has developed within the University community in support of a comprehensive revision of the Mission Statement. It is generally agreed that the University should adopt a more concise Mission Statement which integrates important statements about the core values of our institution. The proposed revised Mission Statement and Statement of Core Values is as follows:

Shepherd University
Mission Statement and Statement of Core Values

Shepherd University, a West Virginia public university, is a diverse community of learners and a gateway to the world of opportunities and ideas. We are the regional center for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity. Our mission of service succeeds because we are dedicated to our core values: learning, engagement, integrity, accessibility, and community.

Core Values

Committed to excellence, Shepherd University embraces the following five core values:

Learning

Shepherd University creates a community of learners who integrate teaching, scholarship, and learning into their lives. In order to create challenging, relevant experiences, inside and outside of the classroom, the University continually evaluates and assesses student learning. We recognize and accommodate diverse learning styles and perspectives necessary for global understanding.

Engagement

Shepherd University fosters environments in which students, faculty, staff, and members of the community engage with each other to form mutually beneficial relationships. We believe that meaningful engagement, with ideas and with people, promotes deep learning and nurtures critical thought.

Integrity

Shepherd University strives for an environment of honesty and fairness in its actions. University officials seek input from students, faculty, and staff and make informed and objective decisions. We expect all members of the community to act in accordance with this value.

Accessibility

Shepherd University provides services to all qualified students. Our staff and faculty are available to students and are committed to respecting and meeting individual needs. University governance and budgeting structures reflect our commitment to transparent processes and public access to information.

Community

Shepherd University comprises a community that includes students, faculty, staff, alumni, and involved citizens. We meet the needs of this community through assessment, development, and implementation of innovative programs and initiatives. We strive to create a safe environment based on mutual respect and acceptance of differences.
The following resolution is recommended for adoption by the Board:

RESOLVED, That the Shepherd University Board of Governors adopts the *Shepherd University Mission Statement and Statement of Core Values* as presented in the Agenda Book and directs the President to submit the same for final approval by the Higher Education Policy Commission.