

## **REVISION OF THE MISSION STATEMENT**

The Shepherd University Strategic Planning Committee developed a comprehensive revision of the University Mission Statement last year. The new Mission Statement and Statement of Core Values were approved by the Board in April. The staff of the Higher Education Policy Commission indicated their support for these changes but requested that the Mission Statement revision be held until the November meeting of the HEPC because of the scope of other matters pending for their August meeting.

In the interim, a further consensus has developed within the University community in support of an additional revision, which would expressly label Shepherd University as a “public liberal arts university.” This further revision has been endorsed by the Strategic Planning Committee, the Faculty Senate, the Classified Employees Council and the Student Government Association. 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 liberal arts 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.